

Frequent asked Questions and tips on replacing Seals

G-Dive Latex Seals For Drysuit

Instruction of how to change a seal

A few good links for instructions on the Internet.

Don't be scared to do it yourself. It's really not that hard. We have added a description from our Dutch diving instructor below.

Listed here are a few good links for instructions on the Internet.

<http://blog.apsltd.com/2009/02/how-to-drysuit-seal-replacement.html> (Video)

http://www.ehow.com/how_5993044_replace-drysuit-neck-seals.html

<http://www.scubaboard.com/forums/do-yourself-diy/268665-installing-drysuit-neck-seal.html>

How to change a seal

What do you do?

You can always get your seals changed at specialist stores. It is not expensive when you compare the amount of time used, but you can always save the extra money by doing it yourself. If you have the basic practical skills and a little bit of courage you can easily do it yourself and won't be depending on waiting to get your dry suit back from the shop. Sooner or later all seals start leaking so the risk is very limited.

How do you do it?

First you need to buy the materials needed: Seals, Adhesive, sandpaper, baking paper and acetone.

Remove the old seal. Remove old tape if any tape is used.

If it is very well mounted then you can simply cut it off with a pair of scissors.

It is always important to use sharp scissors and cut straight to avoid small cracks, which later on can grow bigger.

Be careful when you cut, and make sure the new seal fits.

It is easier to do it with a plastic pot inside e.g. the ones used for plants.

When the seal is removed you need to grind the surface. This is not the easiest but a very important part. Do it by hand or with a machine.

The surface needs to be clean and free of dirt. The surface must be even and consistent.

After the grinding the surface needs to be cleaned with Acetone to remove grease, adhesive parts.

This must be done both on the suit and the new seal. An easy way to do this is to use a bottle to stretch out the surface and make the handling easy.

Now you are ready to put the adhesive on to the surface. We recommend a the G-Glue, but several other types works fine.

Make sure it is liquid and easy to use. Use a little brush to distribute it evenly and thin to the surfaces.

A little trick is to use baking paper... As soon as the part get in contact with each other they are mounted and can't be moved easily.

To help wit this you can use a piece of baking paper (grease free).

Put the piece on top of one of the parts e.g. the suit. The hard part is now to get the seal on top without getting it to wrinkle.

To glue it to the part where the baking paper is the difficult part. Put the new seal over the baking paper, along the glue line.

Carefully remove the baking paper and press hard or hammer the parts together.

For a supreme finish the seal can enhanced by using either rubber tape or even better the PA hot melt tape.

The PA tape can be heated on with a standard Iron at 300 F. Only use PA on Neoprene suits.

Rubber tape is glued on with a standard adhesive.

The procedure for replacing a neck seal is the same except that you mark the suit with the size of the new neck seal before you start the procedure. Do this with great care to avoid the neck seal to make folds.

How to maintain your latex products

All latex products from G-Dive is made from our special compound. This compound contains of a certain amount of wax to protect the proteins inside the latex from ozone and sunlight.

Sometimes you will see you latex seals form G-Dive having a grey surface, actually looking old. This is because the wax from the seals protects the surface and create a thin shield on the outside. This can either be polished off of you can put the seals in the dryer for 25 min with a wet towel and the seals looks as new again. There is nothing wrong with the grey color and it does not influence on the quality.

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