

Diver's Watch

A dive watch needs to be maintained properly so that it can help keep you safe in the water. By taking a few extra minutes before and after your dive you can add years to the life of your watch. Another great reason to take care of your dive watch, beside safety, is that some of these watches can cost thousands of dollars.



First of all, after each dive, you should rinse it out with fresh water to remove any traces of salt water from the watch which can be corrosive. Also, if you are swimming, make sure you rinse the watch as chlorine can be just as bad as salt water on the metal and gaskets. Second, you should turn the bezel to make sure you get any dirt, sand, or grit that got stuck underneath. This also helps to make sure any salt water is rinsed away as well.

Third, you should check the gaskets. These are the rubber seals that make the watch waterproof, as they are very important. It is recommended to change these gaskets every 2 or 3 years.

Fourth, you should keep your dive watch out of hot tubs, saunas, and showers. Rapid temperature changes and extensive exposure to soap suds can be harmful to your watch, so just take it off before you go in.



Lastly, if you have a screw down crown make sure it is screwed down all the way before diving or getting the watch wet.

This helps to insure a waterproof seal. It is also important to know that diving chronograph watches are **NOT** typically designed to have these chronograph buttons used underwater. Doing so may let water in thus compromising the watch.

If you follow these simple steps, your dive watch should last for a long time. Remember, your dive watch helps keep you safe in the water, so, treat it with respect.

Some older/vintage dive watches might be able to be reconditioned and have new gaskets installed and water (pressure) tested. But considering the expense, you would be better off enjoying your older watch outside of the water and buying a newer dive watch to use in the water. Professional divers rely on their equipment. Having an older watch fail increases your risk of an underwater mistake that could impair your dive and/or risk your life. You would be far better off treating older or vintage dive watches as if they were no longer water resistant. I

A watch is tested at the specified depth at a stationary temperature of 64 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit. Any movement through water changes the pressure.

Water resistant does not necessarily mean pool friendly. Watches labeled water resistant (WR) without a specification of level should not be submerged in water at all. Following are water resistant specifications and their meanings:

30M / 3 Bar / 100Ft: Will withstand splashing but not recommended for underwater use.

50M / 5 Bar / 164Ft: Suitable for surface swimming.

100M / 10 Bar / 328Ft: Suitable for swimming, snorkeling, and other mild water sports.

200M / 20 Bar / 662Ft: Suitable for sub aqua diving.

300M / 30 Bar / 993 Ft: Professional divers rated watch.