

## Understanding “Water Resistance”

There are several features that help make a new watch water resistant. The most important are the gaskets, or O rings which are made of rubber, nylon, or Teflon. These gaskets are used to form watertight seals at the joints where the crown, case back and crystal meet the case. The thickness and material of the case is also a big factor in determining whether a watch can safely be worn underwater. A screw-in case back and screw-down crown as opposed to ones that push in create a better seal.

Water resistance is **NOT** a permanent condition. It can be compromised in many ways. Gaskets can become corroded or misshapen, cases can shift and/or deteriorate, crystals become loose or broken, and crowns can become uneven or shift from normal everyday wear.

Water resistance of new watches is rated based on a standardized laboratory pressure test. The different levels of water resistance as expressed in meters are only theoretical. They refer to the depth at which a watch will keep out water if both watch and water are perfectly motionless. These conditions, of course, are never met in the real swimmer's or diver's world. In real life, the movement of the wearer's arm through the water increases the pressure on the watch dramatically; so your watch should not be worn to the depths

indicated by testing machines. The depth specified on the watch represents the results of tests done in a lab, not in a pool or the ocean.



High temperatures experienced in a shower, hot tub or sauna will damage the water protection seals of any watch. Sudden temperature changes will cause

condensation and water vapors can seep into even the best sealed places. Chemicals like soap, chlorine



from a pool, perfume, hairspray, bug spray, and lotions can also work their way into the seams and damage the gaskets, which will compromise the water resistance of any watch. These abrasives can also build up over time and ruin the bracelet link joints as well as the finish. Even if you've been lucky thus far with taking your watch into harmful environments which does not mean that it will retain this luck into the future. Many things, including time itself, can cause changes turning your invincible watch into an ordinary one.

Your best chance to have a watch you can count on for years is to purchase one more rugged than you think you will need. Then, avoid the most harmful environments when possible, and have the gaskets checked and pressure tests done at each battery change. So please be kind to your watch if you wish to enjoy it for many years to come.



**Our Water Resistance Recommendations:**

**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.

Watch Pressure testers used at Swiss Time.