

ON-LAND GEAR-UP



A methodical work flow is essential for safe technical diving. It's important to have a fixed procedure for all of your diving processes, including gearing up. With practice, you will commit this procedure to memory and learn to implement it calmly and methodically. Doing so will ensure you enter the water with a complete set of working gear.

DONNING YOUR DOUBLES AT THE DIVE SITE

- ❑ Find a comfortable workspace, ideally in the shade, and lay out your gear in a way that makes it easy to access. Lay the doubles flat or rest them against something so they cannot fall or be knocked over.
- ❑ Confirm that the wing nuts are secure. Double-check that you have all the necessary accessories for the dive. Defog your back-up mask and erase slates as needed.
- ❑ If using a cabled light, be sure your light is attached to your harness and the light head is clipped to the right chest D-ring. Check that the light turns on.
- ❑ Once all team members are ready, don wetsuits or drysuits and go to the water to cool off. Mexico is hot, and overheating causes rushed behavior and mistakes. In the water, drysuit divers can confirm p-valve function and pre-pee to avoid squeezes. Take your hood to the water to get it wet. You can don it now or immediately before your doubles. Once everyone is cooled down, head together to the gear-up site.
- ❑ Before donning your doubles, confirm all three valves are fully open.
- ❑ Briefly review pocket contents as a team to ensure no dive gear was left behind. If you haven't donned the hood, do so now.
- ❑ Stand the doubles up.
- ❑ Before donning the harness, drysuit divers should connect the drysuit inflation hose. Stand close to the doubles and route the inflation hose through the left armhole of the harness and under the left arm, then connect it.
- ❑ Slide your left arm through the left shoulder strap first and then your right arm. Settle the doubles onto your shoulders and ensure no straps or hoses are trapped between the harness and your body. Ideally, the doubles are still resting on a table or tailgate at this point.
- ❑ Locate the short hose regulator and route it behind your neck from left to right. Pass the bungee necklace over your head.
- ❑ Pull the crotch strap into position and pass the waist band through the crotch strap loop. Buckle the waist band. If needed, you can carefully slide the doubles off the table or tailgate and settle with weight onto your shoulders.
- ❑ If using a cannister light clip the light head to your left chest D-ring and then tuck the excess hose in the waistband.
- ❑ Locate the long hose regulator and create a c-shaped loop with the second stage in your right hand and the hose in your left hand. Pass the loop over your head and clip the second stage to your right chest D-ring. Route the long hose appropriately relative to the wing. Tuck the excess under the canister light if you have one or into your waistband if you do not.
- ❑ Check that the corrugated inflation hose is free.
- ❑ Don computers, slates, and other wrist and arm accessories. Put your mask around your neck, backward on your forehead, or wrapped around your wrist as desired.
- ❑ Clip any additional tools for the dive to the appropriate D-ring.



DRY CHECKS BEFORE HEADING TO THE WATER

Once you have donned your equipment, the dive team quickly reviews each other's equipment to ensure each member has correctly assembled and donned their dive gear.

Remember, if your buddy forgets something or has a problem, it is your problem, too. If you do not catch their individual mistake, the issue becomes a team mistake and may inconvenience or endanger the entire team. Perform dry checks as a team in the order you donned the gear.

DRY CHECKS AT THE TRUCK/TABLE

- ☐ Check that each team member's harness straps are not twisted and that the waistband is through the crotch strap. Have your team check you.
- ☐ Check that each diver's drysuit hose is connected and functional by having them inflate their drysuit a bit. Show them that yours inflates.
- ☐ Confirm that each team member's left regulator is routed correctly around the neck from left to right and that the bungee necklace is around their neck. Check for function and active pressure by asking them to purge the short hose second stage.
- ☐ Confirm each team member's light is present and that the light cable is tucked away and not an entanglement hazard when entering the water.
- ☐ Confirm the long hose of each buddy is correctly routed and that the regulator has active pressure (purge it).
- ☐ Check that each diver's corrugated inflation hose is unencumbered and that all divers have enough gas in the wing to float on the surface. Inflate the wings to confirm this. Inflate yours, too. Confirm the lower dump string is free and clear.
- ☐ Check that each diver has the desired number of arm accessories.
- ☐ Confirm the team has all required accessories/tools.
- ☐ Check that everyone has their mask, hood, and fins.
- ☐ Run to the water!!!! (Just kidding, walk carefully to the water).