





Gloves and Mittens Examined

Thick, heavy-duty gloves make it more difficult to zip up a survival suit, make mayday calls on the VHF, or fire flares. Mustang and Viking offer suits with wrist seals and removable mittens that are sealed around the wrists and come with a neoprene wetsuit type glove rather than a built-in dry-suit glove or mitten. The downside to the suits with separate gloves is the addition of wrist seals to keep water out and the potential for more heat loss at the wrist and hands. To decide which is best for you, put on two pairs of regular gloves or thick ski mittens and go through the steps involved in launching a life raft, collecting the grab bag, and any abandon-ship gear. Anything tough to do with two gloves will be even harder to accomplish in a survival suit with attached gloves.

