



Surface Interval - Vol. 5 No. 4

PADI Dry Suit Diver Training Concurrent with the PADI Open Water Diver Course

PADI Dry Suit Diver is one of eight PADI Specialty courses (including Enriched Air Diver, Digital Underwater Photographer, PADI National Geographic Diver, Boat Diver, Altitude Diver, Project AWARE and AWARE – Coral Reef Conservation) you can conduct concurrently with your PADI Open Water Diver courses.

The PADI Dry Suit Diver course, however, has special considerations concerning the required confined water dry suit orientation.

Even though the two courses are combined, divers still must meet all of the performance requirements from both. That means you'll need to review the performance requirements for both courses yourself before you schedule the concurrent course. Specifically, divers must have successfully completed the PADI Confined Water Dry Suit Orientation prior to the first open water training dive of the PADI Dry Suit Diver course, which in essence means the first open water training dive of the PADI Open Water Diver course.

You need to ensure that divers have completed the orientation's dry suit skills, as part of the PADI Open Water Diver course confined water sessions or as a stand-alone session, before they go on their first open water training dive. This is because student divers need to wear dry suits on all four of the PADI Open Water Diver course training dives - and it is these four dives that then count as the first open water dive from the specialty course.

The skills from the first dive of the specialty course can be spread out over the four Open Water Diver course training dives or conducted on a single dive as long as divers aren't task-loaded. Use your discretion and judgment in deciding when to conduct the skills so you maintain the learning experience.

Once divers have successfully completed the four dives of the PADI Open Water Diver course and all of the exercises from dive one of the Dry Suit specialty course, conduct an additional open water dive covering the dive two skills from the Dry Suit specialty course. Once they're successful, you can issue the PADI Dry Suit Diver certification. This additional dive also counts as the Dry Suit Adventure Dive for divers who want to continue into the PADI Adventures in Diving program.

If you have any questions about running specialty diver training concurrently with the PADI Open Water Diver course, please contact an Educational Consultant in the PADI Training and Quality Management Department.