



## **Care and Maintenance**

Studies show that age alone does not cause the protective capabilities of armour to deteriorate. The care and maintenance the garment receives is a more important factor. Although the label on certified body armour provides general guidelines for the care and maintenance of your armour, please follow these additional tips:

### **Manufacturer's Instructions**

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for the care and maintenance of your armour.

### **Fitting your vest**

- Make sure your vest is of a comfortable fit by adjusting the elasticated straps accordingly.
- The vest should be snug in order for it to mould to the body.
- These vests are designed to cover the main organs only, and not your whole torso.
- Wearing the vest too low (below the navel) will restrict not only your breathing, but also your movement should you find yourself in a situation when you are required to use self defense or restrain some-one. The bottom of the vest should be at a level with your navel. This allows the wearer to sit and crouch with no restriction on their breathing.
- Once you have adjusted the straps on your vest to a comfortable position, it is advised to keep all of the Velcro straps secured.
- When removing a covert vest, release the side straps on one side only and lift the vest over your head, keeping both shoulder straps in tact. This means that in terms of convenience or if you are in a hurry you only need to secure one side when re-fitting the vest.
- When removing overt body armour, simply unzip the vest and leave all Velcro straps in place.

### **Care of Outer Cover**

- The outer COVERT cover is machine washable at **30 degrees Celsius or 86 degrees Fahrenheit**.
- All OVERT covers (including the Hi-Viz cover) can be machine washed at maximum **30 degrees Celsius or 86 degrees Fahrenheit**. However we highly recommend hand washing the covers as this will prolong their lifespan, and prolong the reflective qualities of the hi-visibility tape.
- You must ensure that your cover is completely dry before re-inserting the plates.

### **Care of Inner Plates**

- Never clean the inner plates using a domestic washing machine or any detergents.
- Never use commercial laundries or dry cleaners.
- To clean the inner plates, wipe with a damp cloth and dry thoroughly before placing back in cover (do not soak).
- Never leave inner plates to dry in the sun as UV Rays can downgrade the protective qualities of the plates if they feature Kevlar, allow to air dry at room temperature.
- Do not attempt to make repairs to your armour. Replace your armour immediately if it has been impacted by a bullet/knife or damaged in any way.

### **General Care**

- All stab vests are primarily stab protective or stab resistant vests and certified for that purpose to a specified level e.g. KR1 or KR2. They will of course be defeated by threats greater than the specified levels of KR1 or KR2 respectively. The KR1 and KR2 stab vests offer a secondary advantage of substantial protection against impact. The level of impact protection is substantial but not specified or certified. As above, it will of course be defeated if enough force is applied. If you decide to test the product to destruction, then PPSS Ltd is under no obligation to provide you with a replacement. It is highly advised that you do not test the product yourself, however if you decide to test the limitations of the product, it should be tested appropriately and at your own risk.
- For ballistic vest protection, please refer to our website for the relevant protection levels.
- Any damage to the armour will dramatically reduce the protection level and the body armour should no longer be worn. If your vest is penetrated during an attack, then it must be replaced immediately or returned to us for inspection.
- Seek medical attention if you are injured or attacked in any way while wearing your armour—even if the bullet/knife does not penetrate.
- Regularly inspect your armour for cuts, tears, and other damage to the inner plates.
- Always ensure that the inner plates are placed in the cover according to the strike face (the side that will take any impact or 'strike face' must be facing the outside).
- Never wear jewelry or any hard object beneath a vest in order to stop it becoming a second projectile.
- Be sure to read the label on your armour. Familiarise yourself with its level of protection and make sure your vest's level of protection corresponds to the types of threats you face.
- Remember that proper fit aids in your armour's effectiveness and comfort.

### **Wear your armour**

- Remember – Your armour can greatly reduce the risk of fatal injury, but this should never be a substitute for caution. Wear your armour and always remain alert and safe.

*Disclaimer - Please note that all products distributed by PPSS Ltd are supplied in order to provide added protection to the wearer. PPSS Ltd and all staff employed under PPSS Ltd or any trading division of PPSS Ltd, are not liable and can not be held responsible for any injury caused as a result of misuse of the product. Our body armour is to be used only as an additional protective measure; wearing body armour does not diminish the need to take great care when confronted with a situation which may threaten your own or a colleague's personal safety.*