



Swiss Time

"WHERE WATCHMAKERS WORK"

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Understanding "Water Resistance"

There are several features that make a watch water resistant. The most important are the gaskets, which are made of rubber, nylon, or Teflon. These gaskets are used to form watertight seals at the joints where the crown, case back, bezel, 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. It is important to remember that a watch's water resistance cannot be permanently guaranteed. It may be affected by the aging of gaskets or by an accidental shock to one of the components such as crown, pushers and crystal. We recommend you to have the water resistance of your timepiece checked periodically to verify that all gaskets are functioning as designed.

High temperatures and steam experienced in a shower, hot tub or sauna will damage the water protection seals of any watch. Sudden temperature changes can cause condensation and water vapors can seep into even the best-sealed places. Chemicals like soap, chlorine, perfume, hairspray, bug spray, and lotions can also work their way into the seams and damage the gaskets; compromising the water resistance of any watch. These corrosives can also build up over time and ruin the bracelet link joints as well as the finish. Even if you've been lucky taking your watch into harmful environments that does not mean that it will have this luck in the future!



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 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. Watches labeled water resistant (WR) without a specification of level should not be submerged at all.

Your best option for 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 and have the gaskets checked and pressure tested at each battery change. Be kind to your watch and it will reward you with many years of reliable service.

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.