

REBREATHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a rebreather?
2. What is the difference between recreational rebreather diving and technical rebreather diving?
3. Can I complete the PADI Rebreather Diver and Advanced Rebreather Diver course at the same time?
4. Can I complete the Advanced Open Water Diver at the same time as the Advanced Rebreather Diver Course?
5. Can I go deeper than 40m?
6. Once I'm certified as a Rebreather and/or Advanced Rebreather Diver can I dive using any rebreather?
7. How safe is it?
8. Isn't it really expensive?
9. Is the training really complicated?
10. Isn't there a lot of prepping required?

1. What is a rebreather?

A rebreather may be regarded as a recycling system where it takes your exhaled breath and removes the carbon dioxide. It injects more oxygen into the system to replace the oxygen your body had metabolised which you then "re-breathe".

2. What is the difference between recreational rebreather diving and technical rebreather diving?

A recreational rebreather is designed to work within the limits of recreational diving, i.e. no-decompression diving and no overhead environments, to a maximum depth of 40m (with the appropriate training). The system is also automated so that most of the work is done for you and with recreational rebreather diving, should a problem occur, all you would need to do is bailout onto open circuit and safely end the dive.

Technical rebreather diving may involve decompression diving to depths beyond 40m and, depending on the circumstances, may choose to abort the dive whilst continuing to use a malfunctioning rebreather. This requires the diver to use the rebreather manually along with other emergency procedures.

3. Can I complete the PADI Rebreather Diver and Advanced Rebreather Diver course at the same time?

Yes an integrated format for the courses is available so that you can complete both courses together. Whilst the total number of dives are reduced there is no reduction in the dive time and skills required.

4. Can I complete the Advanced Open Water Diver at the same time as the Advanced Rebreather Diver Course?

Yes. One option would be to complete the four Adventure Dives from the Advanced Open Water Diver course (as long as they are less than 18m) and then complete the Advanced Rebreather Diver course. Dive five of the Advanced Rebreather course will also count as the Deep Adventure Dive of the Advanced Open Water Diver course.

5. Can I go deeper than 40m?

Recreational rebreathers are electronically limited to 40m.

Where do I go from here?

Should you wish to venture beyond the limits of recreational diving then additional training and upgrades are required. This way you can “grow” with your unit as your experience and skills develop. Keep in mind that technical diving is not for everyone and that recreational rebreather diving is way to enhance your current recreational open circuit diving.

6. Once I’m certified as a Rebreather and/or Advanced Rebreather Diver can I dive using any rebreather?

Whilst the principles of rebreather diving are common to the different rebreathers the actual mechanics of diving on another rebreather are different and require an orientation to the unit. This is why we offer the PADI Rebreather Qualifier Program which allows you to safely and easily transition to other recreational rebreathers.

7. How safe is it?

With the advent of the Poseidon Discovery rebreather, rebreather diving could be regarded as being as safe as open circuit diving. The Discovery monitors your gas supply, no-decompression time, absorbed oxygen levels and checks itself throughout the dive. If there is a problem you it warns you and your buddy! The Poseidon Discovery runs through a battery of self tests to ensure it is working correctly so you don’t have to worry about its condition. It even tracks when it was last serviced and if it goes beyond its scheduled service period it will warn you and not allow you to dive.

8. Isn’t it really expensive?

Whilst the cost of purchasing a rebreather is relatively expensive many divers may choose to hire a rebreather rather than purchase one. This option is becoming more popular as units are more readily available for hire and avoids the initial outlay of a unit and the maintenance costs.

9. Is the training really complicated?

The skills that you learn on the Rebreather courses are really just an adaptation of open circuit diving skills so learning to dive a recreational rebreather is very straightforward.

10. Isn’t there a lot of prepping required?

It only takes a little longer to set up the Poseidon Discovery rebreather than an open circuit scuba set. However once set up it can be left together and should last a whole days diving and, unlike open circuit scuba, you shouldn’t need to change cylinders after every dive.