

# How the new Olympic swimsuit gives athletes an edge

Speedo's new bodysuit, the Fastskin FSII, helps swimmers increase their speed by reducing drag after a dive or turn. The different fabrics, designed to work like a shark's skin, anticipate change in the flow of water along the swimmer's body. Suits are gender and stroke specific and can reduce drag by up to 4% more than the ones worn in Sydney.

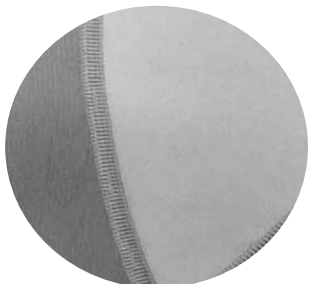
## Fastskin

Mimics the rough shark denticles, tooth-like scales that reduce drag along key areas of the body. Fabric compresses the body to stop skin and muscle vibration. This saves energy and reduces drag at faster speeds.



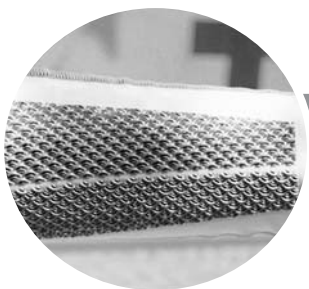
## Flexskin

Smooth surface allows more freedom of motion and creates less drag at slower speeds.



## Titanium silicon scales

When swimming, Flexskin caused athletes to lose their feel of the water. Silicon scales applied to the inner forearm let swimmers regain their grip.



- ▶ **13 different types of suits:** 6 for men, 7 for women
- ▶ **Backstroke suit:** Zips in front, rather than back
- ▶ **Breaststroke:** Fabric along hips creates more freedom of motion when kicking.

