

If you're a dedicated LandCruiser 79 Series enthusiast, the recent **2023 LandCruiser 79 changeover** has no doubt thrown a spanner in the works when it comes to aftermarket parts like snorkels. A common question in the forums and workshops around Regional NSW and beyond is: *Will a VDJ79 snorkel fit a GDJ79 after the updates?* As someone who's been involved in setting up work utes, dust proofing, and creek crossing builds on 70 Series for over 12 years, I can't stress enough how important it is to get fitment right by year and engine type—not just grabbing parts based on looks or brand name.

In this post, we'll break down the key differences in snorkel fitment between VDJ79 and GDJ79 models post-2023, discuss dust management and engine breathing, water ingress prevention, towing safety, and how companies like Toyota, Safari, and ARMAX have responded in their snorkel designs. We'll also cover typical price points so you know what to expect.

VDJ79 vs GDJ79 Fitment: What Changed in 2023?

First things first, if you're looking for parts, **always ask "What year and what engine?"** before buying or fitting. This isn't just a catchphrase—it's a necessity. Toyota's 79 Series LandCruiser underwent significant updates in 2023, most notably swapping diesel engine codes from the VDJ79 to the GDJ79.

- **VDJ79:** Pre-2023 Toyota 70 Series models equipped with the 1VD-FTV 4.5L turbo diesel engine.
- **GDJ79:** Post-2023 models featuring the newer 1GD-FTV 2.8L turbo diesel engine.

While the external body design appears similar at first glance, Toyota altered the air intake positions, mounting points, and underbonnet layout to support the different engine and emissions standards. This is critical because snorkels must align perfectly with factory airboxes and mounting points to seal properly and maintain durability.

The Wrong Year Snorkel Problem

Using a snorkel designed for a VDJ79 on a GDJ79 isn't just a DIY headache—it's a potential risk for your engine and overall vehicle performance. Misaligned snorkels can:

- Cause poor sealing leading to dust ingress.
- Increase water ingress risk during creek crossings.
- Result in forced wiring modifications or cut looms (a *"shed-on-a-Saturday"* mistake in my book).

Given how picky I am about fitment accuracy and avoiding messy wiring jobs, it's no surprise I always tell customers: *stick to snorkels specifically designed for your LandCruiser's exact year and engine.*

Why Fitment Accuracy Matters: Dust Management and Engine Breathing

LandCruisers in Regional NSW and remote farm tracks often inhale a ton of dust. Snorkels are vital for positioning your air intake higher and away from dirt and debris kicked up from tires and rough terrain.

What Happens if Your Snorkel Doesn't Fit Properly?

- **Dust ingress:** An ill-fitting snorkel might not seal well at the airbox connection, letting dust bypass pre-filters.
- **Reduced engine breathing:** Misalignment can create air flow restrictions, causing your turbo diesel to run less efficiently and possibly increase fuel consumption.

- **Premature wear:** Fine dust particles slipping past the air filter can cause accelerated engine wear, especially the turbo.

The take-home is simple: you want a snorkel that mates perfectly to your engine's airbox inlet without force or trimming. Both Toyota genuine and reputable aftermarket brands like **Safari** and **ARMAX's Safari range** design kits for exact year/engine model compatibility.

Water Ingress Prevention and Risk Reduction

Water ingress during creek crossings or flooding isn't just annoying—it can wreck your engine in minutes. Snorkels act as a vertical snorkel to raise your intake above typical water depths.

However, again, fitment is key:

- Snorkels designed around the VDJ79's engine bay layout will mount differently compared to the GDJ79, potentially causing gaps or stress points that may allow water ingress.
- Some cheaper or generic snorkels force you to cut factory wiring looms or clip in awkward positions that compromise sealing and stability.
- Water seeping past an incorrect seal can flood your air intake during deep water crossings—an absolute disaster.

So if you're preparing your 2023+ GDJ79 for creek crossings, [vdj79 snorkel fitment](#) get a snorkel kit specifically made for that update. Both Toyota genuine and the **Safari** range from **ARMAX** offer specialized options designed precisely with 2023 models in mind.

Towing Safety and Blind Spot Reduction

Another benefit that sometimes gets overlooked is how snorkels can impact towing safety and visibility.

Fitted correctly, snorkels can be positioned so that they don't create blind spots alongside your trailer or caravan. A misfit snorkel, or one designed for the wrong year, can:

- Stick out too far forward or angle awkwardly, obstructing side mirrors or sightlines.
- Make hook ups and reversing beside trailers more hazardous.
- Increase the risk of snagging on tree branches or tight clearances due to improper mounting positions.

The take-away here: attention to fitment detail isn't just about engine health; it's also about practical day-to-day safety on and off-road.

Snorkel Prices and Options

Wondering what fitting a snorkel will set you back? Snorkel kits start from around **\$526** AUD, depending on brand and complexity.

Brand	Model Compatibility	Price Range (AUD)	Notes
Toyota Genuine	Specific to year and engine (e.g. GDJ79 post-2023)	\$600 - \$750	Factory spec fit, full warranty
Safari (ARMAX Range)	Designed for VDJ79 and GDJ79 separately	From \$526	Aftermarket with careful attention to fitment details
Generic brands	One-size-fits-all (often problematic)	\$300 - \$450	Risk of poor fit and wiring mods

For those who care about their ute surviving dust bowls, creek crossings, and towing safely, spending a bit more on a correctly fitted and purpose-made snorkel kit pays dividends.

Conclusion: Don't Gamble on the Wrong Year Snorkel

To wrap up, the bottom line is this: **a VDJ79 snorkel will NOT fit properly onto a 2023+ GDJ79 LandCruiser 79 Series.** The 2023 update saw enough changes in bodywork, engine bay layout, and air intake design that forcing one on is a recipe for dust ingress, water risk, and wiring nightmares.

If you're in the market for a snorkel on your *GDJ79*, look for options specifically tailored to that model. **Toyota** genuine snorkels and the **Safari** range from **ARMAX** have responded well to these changes, offering robust, well-engineered snorkels that start from around \$526 and focus on proper fitment and functional durability—not just marketing buzzwords.



Ask yourself this: remember, fitment details matter as much as the brand name. Avoid the “shed-on-a-Saturday” mistakes of cut looms or trimming parts to force a fit. Your LandCruiser deserves better—take the time to get it right.

So, next time someone asks about *vdj79 vs gdj79 fitment* or the *2023 LandCruiser 79 changeover*, you can confidently say: “Match your snorkel to your exact model year and engine for dust management, water ingress protection, and overall reliability.”



Got questions about your 70 Series snorkel setup? Drop me a comment or get in touch—I'm always keen to help fellow Regional NSW LandCruiser owners avoid the common pitfalls.