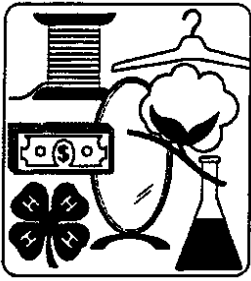


OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

*Intermediate Level
(12-14 Years)*



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Consumer Education

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Planning Your Wardrobe

You may see clothes in a store window or clothes your friends are wearing and think you would like something similar. But before you break into your savings account, stop and ask yourself how those clothes will fit into your total wardrobe.

Careful planning is the first step to being well dressed. While no one can expect to buy all new clothes each season, you can plan a coordinated wardrobe with the resources you have.

Start by listing all your activities. Make a list of all the usable clothes you have in your closet and drawers. Some clothes can be worn for several events, others for only one. Don't forget to list coats, jackets, and shoes.

It's a good idea to try on garments before you list them to be sure they still fit. Make a note of the ones that need mending or alteration. Study catalogs, store window displays, and fashion magazines to see what is currently fashionable.

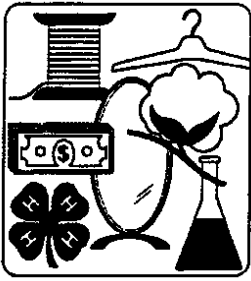
Style is not the same as fashion. A style is a particular characteristic of design or line. Look at pants styles, for example. There are hip huggers, stovepipes, wide cut, high rise, and baggies, to name a few. These are all styles, but they may or may not be in fashion right now. Fashion is the prevailing style – the one that is popular right now. A fad is a style that is popular for only a short time.

Carrying Out a Wardrobe Plan

After you have examined your wardrobe, you need to decide if you have enough clothes to carry out your daily activities. If you play in the school band, you may need fewer clothes for school events because you'll be wearing the band uniform. Perhaps you want a new band instrument or a computer and decide to have fewer clothes this year so the money can go toward that major purchase. Perhaps you have a job and need clothes with built-in safety features. Decide which garments you need to meet your needs.

Next, examine your total clothing resources. Money is one. Your shopping skills are another. Don't overlook sewing skills. You may be able to make your own clothes and alter or recycle others.

Now, you can make a plan. You may decide to buy the red sweater before you get new jeans. You may decide to sew the new shirts or blouses you need. You may decide to look for a second-hand coat. Whatever you decide, have a plan to keep you from making impulse purchases you'll regret later. A plan will also help you decide whether or not a sale item is a good buy.



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Your Wardrobe Plan: Putting It in Place

Dressing well is not a matter of having a lot of clothes or wearing expensive clothes or the latest fashions. The secret to being well-dressed lies in choosing clothes that are right for you and your activities. If you don't have a plan for adding new clothes to your wardrobe, you may wind up with a closet full of clothes but nothing to wear.

With a well-planned wardrobe, you won't have to spend a lot of time wondering what to wear because your clothes, made up of mostly separates, can be matched into many combinations. The more combinations you have, the more money you save.

Test your wardrobe IQ by checking the correct response to each of the following statements.

-
- A. I can always find something to wear, no matter what the occasion.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- B. When I'm invited to a party, banquet or some other special occasion, I always purchase a new outfit.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- C. I seem to have lots of tops and lots of bottoms, but they just don't go together.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- D. I usually have a specific item in mind when I go shopping for clothes.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- E. I try to buy new garments that will match my old ones.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- F. I tend to buy the latest fashion, even if it doesn't flatter my body type.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- G. If I find clothing I like, I buy it right then, even if it isn't something I need.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- H. I like to go through my closet and find new ways to wear my old clothes.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- I. On at least one occasion I have bought a garment or accessory only to find out it didn't match anything else I owned.
 Usually Sometimes Never
- J. I regularly throw away, give away, or recycle clothes I'm no longer wearing.
 Usually Sometimes Never

Now use the table below to see how you rate as a wardrobe planner.

	<i>Usually</i>	<i>Sometimes</i>	<i>Almost Never</i>	<i>MY SCORE</i>
A	3	2	1	
B	1	3	2	
C	1	2	3	
D	3	2	1	
E	3	2	1	
F	1	2	3	
G	1	2	3	
H	3	2	1	
I	1	2	3	
J	3	2	1	
<i>Total</i>				

If you scored between 25 and 30 points, you are a smart shopper who invests money in clothing wisely.

If you scored between 16 and 24 points, you've made an effort at planning but still need some help.

If you scored between 10 and 15 points, your wardrobe really needs help! You are spending too much money for what you're getting.

There are dozens of books and magazine articles on wardrobe planning and hundreds of professional consultants who specialize in wardrobe planning strategies, but ALL the experts agree that pre-planning begins with a closet inventory.

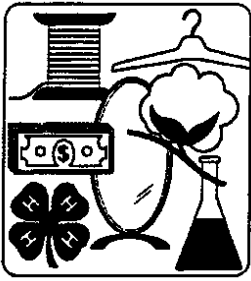
There are no shortcuts. You must know what you have before you can decide what you need to add.

Follow these steps to complete your wardrobe inventory:

1. Take everything out of the closet.
2. Divide clothes into five stacks:
 - a. In style, in season, and in good condition.
 - b. In style, in good condition but out of season.
 - c. Wearable, if repaired
 - d. Give away
 - e. Recycle

3. Put your clothes back into your closet, re-organizing as you go. Hang all your pants together in one section, all your shirts in another, your skirts in another, your dresses in another and all coats in another.

By hanging each category separately you may see combinations you never thought of wearing before.



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Keeping Track of Expenses

Keeping a written record of expenses helps you know how and where you spend your money. It can also provide a basis for planning and budgeting future purchases. To find out how much money you spend on clothing and grooming items, keep a record of expenditures for a one-month period. Record your expenses in a notebook or on a computer.

Date started: _____

Date ended: _____

1. What were your total grooming expenditures?

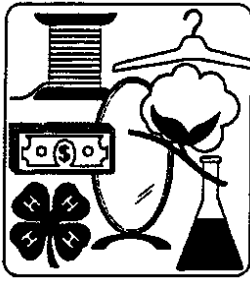
2. What were your total clothing expenditures?

3. Were the expenditures more or less than you expected?

4. What percentage of your expenditures are you satisfied with? _____ Percent

5. What percentage was a poor use of money? _____ Percent

6. What percent of your income (allowance, earnings, gifts) did you spend on clothing and grooming? _____ Percent



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Cost

Decide before you start shopping how much you can spend on the garment. Price is not always a sign of quality. By knowing standards for quality fabric and workmanship, you can often find a high quality garment that meets your needs at a lower price. Brand names and designer labels may cost more but they may also mean the manufacturer will stand behind the merchandise. For some items, you may be

unable to see any difference between the well-known brand and the unlabeled one. In others, differences in quality of fabric and construction are obvious.

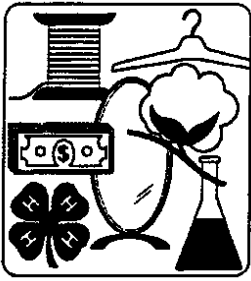
Read the label to check the care required for the garment. When you figure cost, remember the cost of care. Care can get expensive for something like a white wool blazer that is labeled “dry clean only.”

“Will this be cash or charge?” Actually, there are several ways to pay for clothing:

Comparing Cost: Buying a \$50 Jacket

	Cash	Charge	Layaway	Revolving charge*	Installment plan
Price of jacket	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Down payment	none	none	10% or more	none	20% or \$10
Carrying charge	none	none	none	Up to 1.5% or more on monthly unpaid balance	10% or \$5
Time to pay	When bought	30 days after store closes books	6 to 8 weeks	6 months	12 months
Total cost	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$52.62	\$55

*A revolving charge account allows you to add purchases up to a certain limit. You pay a set minimum each month on your account. Interest charges are added to your unpaid balance.



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Buymanship Skills

As you buy your own clothes, concentrate on developing buymanship skills by selecting garments which fit well and are well-made.

Before you purchase a garment, make sure it will coordinate with the rest of your wardrobe. Choose colors and styles that will help you develop the image you want to project. Make sure the garment looks good and will wear well.

Comparison shopping will help improve your buy manship skills and help you get the most desirable item for your money. You may comparison shop by looking at newspaper ads and mail order catalogs or you may go into different stores to compare the quality and price of a particular garment.

Here are some pointers to consider as you look for quality in ready-to-wear garments.

Workmanship

Fabric should be firm. If it is loosely-woven, make sure it has been stabilized with tapes, etc. It should be suitable for the garment and for your needs. Check for imperfections.

Grainline – Lengthwise grain should be perpendicular to the floor, with the horizontal grain crossing it at right angles. If the garment is not cut on-grain, it will not hang properly and may stretch out of shape.

Care requirements printed on the label should be convenient and realistic.

Seams should be at least ½ inch wide, flat

and finished, if necessary, to prevent raveling. Serged seams may be smaller if the garment has plenty of wearing ease.

Stitching should be small, even, and straight. Check for loose thread ends. (These can often be tied and clipped.)

Zippers should lie flat and be completely covered by the fabric. Stitching should be even and the zipper pull should lock at the top.

Buttons and snaps should be firmly sewn and in line. Button the garment to be sure the buttons are spaced evenly and smoothly. Buttonhole stitching should be close and even, straight with the grain, and tacked at both ends.

Hems should be invisible. If the hem needs alteration, make sure it is wide enough.

Plaids and stripes should match wherever possible – at side seams, shirt fronts, and where the bodice meets the skirt.

Look for *interfacing* in collars and cuffs and under buttons and buttonholes. Interfacing will prevent stretching and provide support, without causing the fabric to pucker.

Neckline and collar should be centered and lie smooth. The under collar should not be visible and collar points should be even.

Pockets should be conveniently located, evenly matched on both sides, and bar-tacked at the corners.

Trims should be of good quality and require the same cleaning procedures as the fabric.

Linings should be of good quality fabric, smooth and neatly finished. (An unlined jacket should look neat on the inside.)

Fit

No matter how good the construction, a garment that does not fit well or help your self-image is a waste of money. Be sure to try all garments on for fit.

When you try on a garment, look for the overall *effect* first. Check the back view to be sure the back and side seams hang straight, without ripples or puckers. Check in a three-way mirror, if possible.

The *shoulder seams* should be at the edge of your shoulder unless the garment has raglan sleeves or dropped shoulders.

The *armholes and collar* should feel comfortable, neither binding nor too large.

Long *sleeves* should reach the bottom of your wrist bone when your arm is bent. The width of the sleeve is also important. It should not bind or strain when you bend your arm. Move your arms front to back to see that the garment does not bind.

The *skirt or pant legs* should hang evenly. If the length is not suitable, make sure it is of a fabric or style that can be altered. Run your fingers down the side

seams. Are they straight? Do they follow your fingertips? Bend over in pants to see if there is enough room.

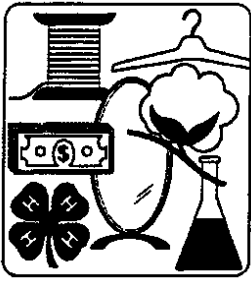
If you will usually be sitting when you wear the garment, find a place to sit down in the store to see if it will be comfortable for you.

If the garment needs alterations, check to see if the store will do them and if they charge for that service.

Quality

Fashion leaders recommend buying the highest quality you can afford for the clothes you wear every day or clothes you plan to wear more than one year. However, choosing a garment of lesser quality might make more sense in the situations listed below.

- When you are only going to wear the garment a few times.
- When you feel the garment is a fad and you won't wear it more than one season.
- When you see that the garment is made of good fabric and cut on the grain but poorly constructed, and you believe you can correct the construction problems and have a quality garment.
- When the choices are limited in your local stores and you don't have time to shop around.



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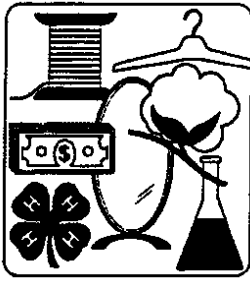
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Is This a Good Buy?

Do you know what quality workmanship is in a shirt or blouse?



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Shopping for a Winter Coat

A coat will cost a lot of money and you will wear it for a long time. Before you buy a coat, ask yourself the following questions:

- What kind of coat do I need?
- What kind will look best with my other clothes?
- Where will I wear it?
- How often will I wear it?
- How much money do I have to spend?

Cost per wear

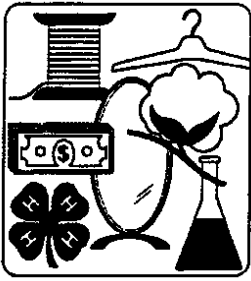
If you wear a \$100 coat six times a week for six months over a three year period, it will cost you about 22 cents per wearing. On the other hand, if you pay \$60 for a special occasion coat, which you wear twice a year for three years, it costs you almost \$10 per evening. Before you shop for a coat, take a look at the cost per wearing. Can you afford to spend that much?

Using a catalog, choose three coats that might work with your wardrobe. Figure the cost per wearing for each of the coats.

	<i>Dress Coat</i>	<i>School Coat</i>	<i>Raincoat</i>
Cost of coat			
Number of years' wear			
Number of times worn per year			
Cost per wearing			

A well-made coat keeps its good appearance and shape after long wear and many cleanings. Look for these signs of good quality:

<i>Inside</i>	<i>Outside</i>
Seam allowances and hem width are generous. Matching thread is used. Lining is firm and smooth. Interfacing gives shape to coat. Lining is well fitted to coat. Lining is tacked securely so it won't slip.	Fabric is springy. Seams are evenly stitched. Pocket corners and buttonholes are well-constructed. Buttons are smooth, easy-to-use, and securely fastened. Coat front closes and hangs smoothly. Hem is even and smooth.



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Shopping Savvy

When to Shop

Should you buy at the beginning of the season or wait until the merchandise is on sale? There are some advantages and disadvantages to each.

At the beginning of a season you will find the latest fashions and the widest selections of styles and sizes. If you are hard to fit, you may find it necessary to buy at the beginning of the season. That way you will be able to wear your new clothing for the entire season. This is important if you are growing so rapidly that you outgrow your clothes between seasons.

A disadvantage to shopping at the beginning of the season is the prices. If you wait until the end of the season to shop, you can take advantage of sales.

Sales

We all like to stretch our money with bargains. Look for quality and compare prices. A garment that is on sale is not necessarily a bargain. Regardless of price, a garment is not a bargain if you don't need it.

As you shop at sales, ask yourself these questions:

- Why did this garment not sell at the regular price?
- Is the garment well-constructed?
- Is it shop-worn or damaged?
- Will it be in style next season?
- Is it regular stock that has been marked down or is it a special purchase by the

store?

Be a better shopper

Think before you buy that garment. Does it look good on you? Will it coordinate with at least two other garments? Will you pay cash, charge it, or put it on layaway?

Did you know that the more garments you have, the more time and effort you will need for shopping, caring, storing, and even deciding what to wear? Instead of purchasing several garments, why not use accessories to create variety with the clothes you already have?

Consider the quality of a garment. The cheapest price may not be the best value. For classic garments you will wear frequently and for several years, buy the best quality (fabric, workmanship) you can afford. Choose lower quality garments at lower prices if you know you will probably wear them for only one season. The quality of the garment and the price you are willing to pay should depend on its intended use.

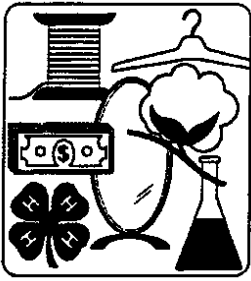
Fads

Fads are new fashions that last a very short time and may be adopted by only a few people in one locality. For example, it might be a fad for nearly everyone in your school to wear bright-colored shoe laces. If you went to another school, the fad might be wearing gray socks. Fads sometimes make little sense, but they can be fun.

Since stores are in business to make a profit, they are usually just as eager to see fads as classic fashions. You have to learn the difference if you want to get your money's worth in selecting clothing.

Be a better shopper

1. I am a "thinking" shopper. I use enough time to make wise choices. I read labels and compare prices.
 Yes No
2. I make a note of a salesperson who is helpful and well-informed and call for that person on later shopping trips.
 Yes No
3. I am concerned about how much time I ask of the salesperson and consider other customers who want to be served.
 Yes No
4. I make a note of a particular brand or trade name which has proven satisfactory.
 Yes No
5. I avoid buying garments that require difficult or extensive alterations.
 Yes No
6. I handle merchandise carefully, knowing that customer damage of garments makes all the garments cost more.
 Yes No
7. I learn the store's policy on exchange and refund.
 Yes No
8. I return unsatisfactory garments. (If a complaint is justified and if the store is reliable, the garment will be returned to the manufacturer, unless marked for no return or exchanges.)
 Yes No
9. I try not to shop during rush hours or just before closing time when clerks are closing books.
 Yes No



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Kinds of Stores

There are many different kinds of stores available where your family can buy clothing. You may find all or only a few of these kinds of stores in your community.

Retail chain stores are department stores that sell many items in addition to clothing. They operate hundreds of stores around the country and buy and sell clothing in huge quantities, so the cost per garment is usually lower than in other stores.

Mail order catalogs can be convenient clothing sources. Some operate strictly through the mail and others operate local stores. Study these catalogs to learn about style trends and quality. This information can help you plan your purchases, whether you buy through the catalog or in a local store. Mail order catalogs can offer lower prices because they buy in large volume. Remember to add the cost of shipping to their prices when doing comparative shopping.

Discount stores purchase in large volume and sell a wide variety of items. These stores are self-serve, with few salespersons and services. This allows them to keep their prices low.

Department stores sell shoes, towels, accessories, gifts, and similar items as well as clothing. Some have branches in a few other towns but not nationwide, like chain stores. They seldom have the buying power of chain or discount stores. However, they can provide personalized services, such as

alterations and gift wrapping. In smaller towns, the clerks may know you personally.

Specialty shops and boutiques sell only a few types of clothing for a special age or size range. Some examples are western shops, jeans stores, tall-size shops, men's shops, and many others. They usually offer a wide choice in their specialty, although they may have only one garment of a kind in each size. They usually offer alterations and gift wrapping, with sales persons to help you. For that reason, prices may be higher than in department or discount stores. Many small mail order catalogs are from specialty shops.

Used clothing stores or thrift shops may carry clothing of many sizes and qualities, but usually your choice of colors and styles is limited. You can find good bargains in these shops if you learn to check for wear and condition as well as quality of the workmanship and fabric.

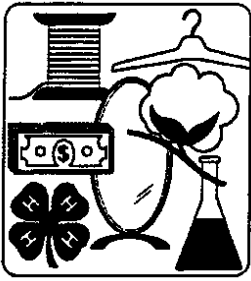
Store Policies and Services

Regardless of the store, always inspect garments closely before you buy. Sometimes a store will advertise a special purchase at lower prices. These may be seconds – items which were flawed in the factory and cannot be sold as first quality. Many times the flaws are not noticeable and you can get a good bargain. Make sure you know whether the store sells first rate merchandise, irregular

Clothing, or seconds.

Each store has a policy on returned garments and refunds. Ask about this policy before you buy.

Some stores offer services such as gift wrapping, alteration of garments you buy, layaway plans and charge accounts, and mail and phone orders.



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Shopping Sales

Clothing sales can be great money-savers, but only when you shop wisely.

To get the most at clothing sales, decide what you need, stick with your shopping list, and buy only those items you will use.

Sales Terms to Know

- *Irregular*: an item that is imperfect in color, fabric construction, or size.
- *Second*: an item with a flaw that may or may not affect wearing quality.
- *Former price*: the last price charged for a garment.
- *Original price*: the price first charged for a garment.
- *Regular price*: the price before the sale.

Sale items are a bargain only if they:

- Can be returned.
- Fit in with clothes and accessories you already have.
- Are still in fashion and can be used for more than one season.
- Fit well and don't require costly alternations.
- Have quality worth the price.
- Don't require expensive cleaning before wearing.

Getting your money's worth at sales

Learn to take advantage of promotions and sales. Nearly all stores offer sales from time to time. Use sales to your advantage.

Shopping at clothing sales is one way to stretch your clothing dollar if:

- You need the garment.
- It coordinates with your present wardrobe.
- It fits correctly and does something for you.
- You evaluate the merchandise carefully in relation to your spending plan.
- You remember that sale items can seldom be returned.
- You know when a sale is really a sale.

Sales are offered for the store's benefit, not just yours. The store expects to make a profit, even though it is offering merchandise to you at a reduce price.

Understanding the various types of sales may help you make more thoughtful choices.

Clothing Sales

Clothing stores have sales for many reasons. Nearly all stores have certain regular sales, sometimes to move leftover merchandise at the end of a season to make room for new clothing items. Some sales offer better savings than others.

An understanding of the various types of sales will help you take advantage of them. Watch for announcements of sales and be ready to profit from the following:

Seasonal sales are held by stores regularly at the end of a fashion season. Since these sales are timed with the seasons, you can plan for them. Seasonal sales can save you 25 to 50 percent of the normal sales price.

Clearance sales are similar to seasonal sales. These sales help stores get rid of old fashions and make way for new ones. Items may be shopworn and color selection, styles, and sizes may be limited. Clearance sales usually offer a 25 to 50 percent reduction.

Annual sales offer items reduced 10 to 15 percent for short periods of time. When the sale is over, items are returned to the original price. Size range and color choices are limited.

Special purchase sales occur at odd times and feature products bought especially for the sale. These sales may offer depth in product line and may be for charge customers only. Items may not be of the usual quality carried by the store. Special purchase sales do not offer great price reductions – usually 15 to 20 percent.

The *anniversary sale* is an annual sale in honor of the store, with some regular stock and some specially purchased stock. You must know the store's merchandise in order to save on an anniversary sale.

Stimulation sales are used to promote the store during slow periods. These sales are known under names such as "Back to School Sales" or "Sidewalk Sales." You

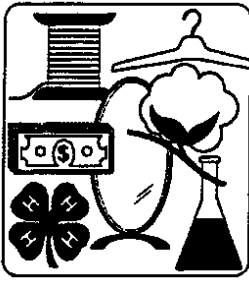
may save as much as 10 to 15 percent on regular stock and 15 to 20 percent on specially purchased merchandise.

Usually there is a reason for a markdown in price. Recognize that these reasons do exist. Ask these questions:

- Is the style on the way out?
- Is the garment soiled, damaged, or shopworn?
- Is it irregular?
- Is the color true or faded?
- Is the construction poor?
- Is the merchandise a special purchase by the store?
- Is it a seasonal change?
- Is it a hard-to-sell size?

Can you get a bargain at a sale?

A good buy is anything that meets your needs at a price you want to pay. If you can get what you want for less money than usual, or if you can get better quality for the same money, you probably have a good buy. But even if you saved money purchasing an item, it is not a bargain if you cannot use it. Some items in your closet may have seemed like bargains when you bought them. But if the garment does not fit right or is the wrong color, you probably don't wear it very often. If the quality is poor or if you don't have anywhere to wear it, then your sale garment was not really a good buy after all.



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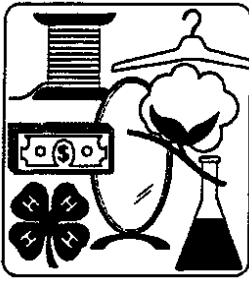
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Sales Calendar for Clothing Bargain Hunters

<p align="center">January</p> <p>Coats, shoes, dresses, furs, hats, winter clothes, hosiery, lingerie, sportswear, men's coats and suits. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">February</p> <p>President's Day and Valentine's Day promotions, men's shirts, sportswear. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">March</p> <p>Easter specials, hosiery, children's and infant's wear, winter sportswear. NOTES:</p>
<p align="center">April</p> <p>After-Easter clearance, women's and children's coats and dresses, men's suits, fabric. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">May</p> <p>Mother's Day promotions, lingerie, handbags, summer sportswear. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">June</p> <p>Father's Day specials, dresses, spring clothes, summer sportswear, fabric, camping clothes. NOTES:</p>
<p align="center">July</p> <p>Fourth of July promotions, sidewalk specials, swimwear, shoes, hats, spring and summer clothes. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">August</p> <p>Summer clearances, back-to-school specials, swimwear, coats, furs. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">September</p> <p>Back-to-school and fall promotions. NOTES:</p>
<p align="center">October</p> <p>Columbus Day sales, fall and winter sportswear, women's coats and suits. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">November</p> <p>Election day and Thanksgiving promotions, women's and children's wear, men's suits, shoes. NOTES:</p>	<p align="center">December</p> <p>Pre-Christmas sales, men's suits and shoes, women's shoes and coats, children's clothes, resort wear, after-Christmas clearance. NOTES:</p>



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Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Shopping Spree

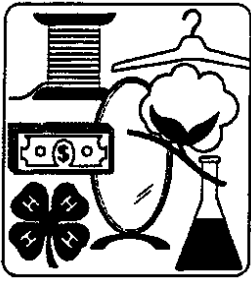
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h	e	j	b	a	r	g	a	i	n	s	h	i	r	t
l	n	t	p	q	t	w	y	c	g	l	x	z	i	r
d	i	c	r	s	l	t	e	k	c	a	j	w	m	y
e	m	y	t	i	l	a	u	q	n	b	a	n	p	i
n	p	v	a	t	c	x	w	d	g	r	s	b	l	t
e	u	c	o	l	o	r	m	r	d	u	t	v	a	o
h	l	c	g	j	m	a	l	r	c	p	i	q	y	n
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g	e	s	v	c	w	b	x	z	e	a	c	e	w	g
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l	g	e	l	k	n	i	r	w	t	y	d	p	n	l

1. Clothes with _____ styling have timeless appeal and don't go out of fashion quickly. (7 letters)
2. When you fill out an application for a charge account, you are applying for _____. (6)
3. The construction of a garment is a good indication of its _____. (7)
4. In the coming years, clothing will be sized in _____ measurements. (6)
5. A man's suit _____ should be long enough to cover the seat of the pants. (6)
6. Good _____ disappear quickly after a clothing sale begins. (8)
7. Purchases that can be worn with garments already in your _____ will give the most fashion mileage. (8)
8. To be sure an article of clothing fits, always _____ . (3, 2, 2)
9. One-half to three-quarters of an inch of _____ cuff should extend beyond the edge of men's suit sleeves. (five letters)
10. Avoid _____ buying. (7)
11. When trying on a garment, move around, and _____ down. (3)
12. To check a garment for _____-resistance, crumple a corner in your hand. (7)
13. In pants, the _____ is the measurement from the crotch to the finished length. (7)
14. Coordinate garments by planning around a basic _____ scheme. (5)
15. Quality jeans are double-_____. (8)
16. Most permanent-press items cannot be _____; they'll retain the original crease. (10)
17. A _____ plan allows you to hold a garment at the store with a small deposit. (7)
18. _____ separates can be worn with each other in a variety of ways. (3, 3, 5)
19. If you're dissatisfied with the performance of a garment, return it to the _____. (5)
20. At _____ you can buy merchandise supplied directly by the manufacturers. (7, 7)

Shopping Spree Answer Page

m	a	e	s	n	i	b	d	s	t	o	r	e	m	g
h	e	j	b	a	r	g	a	i	n	s	h	i	r	t
l	n	t	p	q	t	w	y	c	g	l	x	z	i	r
d	i	c	r	s	l	t	e	k	c	a	j	w	m	y
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n	p	v	a	t	c	x	w	d	g	r	s	b	l	t
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n	c	i	h	j	e	l	l	a	d	v	h	t	a	h
e	d	c	l	a	s	s	i	c	i	w	e	r	y	j
l	g	e	l	k	n	i	r	w	t	y	d	p	n	l

1. Clothes with **CLASSIC** styling have timeless appeal and don't go out of fashion quickly. (7 letters)
2. When you fill out an application for a charge account, you are applying for **CREDIT**. (6)
3. The construction of a garment is a good indication of its **QUALITY**. (7)
4. In the coming years, clothing will be sized in **METRIC** measurements. (6)
5. A man's suit **JACKET** should be long enough to cover the seat of the pants. (6)
6. Good **BARGAINS** disappear quickly after a clothing sale begins. (8)
7. Purchases that can be worn with garments already in your **WARDROBE** will give the most fashion mileage. (8)
8. To be sure an article of clothing fits, always **TRY IT ON**. (3, 2, 2)
9. One-half to three-quarters of an inch of **SHIRT** cuff should extend beyond the edge of men's suit sleeves. (five letters)
10. Avoid **IMPULSE** buying. (7)
11. When trying on a garment, move around and **SIT** down. (3)
12. To check a garment for **WRINKLE**-resistance, crumple a corner in your hand. (7)
13. In pants, the **INSEAM** is the measurement from the crotch to the finished length. (7)
14. Coordinate garments by planning around a basic **COLOR** scheme. (5)
15. Quality jeans are double-**STITCHED**. (8)
16. Most permanent-press items cannot be **LENGTHENED**; they'll retain the original crease. (10)
17. A **LAYAWAY** plan allows you to hold a garment at the store with a small deposit. (7)
18. **MIX AND MATCH** separates can be worn with each other in a variety of ways. (3, 3, 5)
19. If you're dissatisfied with the performance of a garment, return it to the **STORE**. (5)
20. At **FACTORY OUTLETS** you can buy merchandise supplied directly by the manufacturers. (7, 7)



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

What Kind of Consumer Are You?

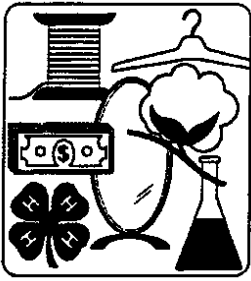
Not every purchase is a good buy. Sometimes purchases turn out to be disappointments. Ask yourself these questions:

- Did you really need the garment?
- Were you influenced by friends, advertising, a salesperson, or a desire to keep up with stores?
- Did you expect more than the label or manufacturer claimed?
- Did you follow directions in caring for the garment?
- Did you “impulse buy?”

Avoid disappointment. Learn from your mistake. Next time, look for better quality and be better informed. Make sure you follow care instructions exactly. Report your disappointments to the store or manufacturer. Consumer reports help stores and manufacturers give consumers better products.

Evaluate yourself as a consumer

1. Do you know what you want, how you will use it, and how much you can spend?
 Yes No Sometimes
2. Do you inform yourself by reading ads, magazines, etc.?
 Yes No Sometimes
3. Do you begin your shopping at the most likely source?
 Yes No Sometimes
4. Do you shop during slow hours?
 Yes No Sometimes
5. Are you courteous to salespeople other shoppers?
 Yes No Sometimes
6. Do you report disappointments to the store manager or manufacturer?
 Yes No Sometimes
7. Do you learn from disappointments to be a wise consumer?
 Yes No Sometimes



4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Analyzing Fabric Selection

ACTIVE SPORTS OUTFIT	Fabric	Care	Color
A. Crewneck sweatshirt and sweat pants with drawstring waist	50% polyester; 50% cotton fleece blend	Machine wash; tumble dry.	Navy blue
B. Crewneck sweatshirt and sweat pants with elastic waist and inner drawstring	100% acrylic with fleeced inner side	Machine wash; tumble dry.	Red sweatshirt/gray sleeves; Gray sweat pants/red stripe
C. Knit t-shirt and woven pants with elasticized waist and zipper fly	Polyester and cotton blend	Machine wash; tumble dry.	Green pants; Two-tone green top

- Which of the outfits in the chart above would move best with your body during active sports? _____ Why? _____

- Which would best absorb perspiration? _____ Why? _____

- For which would care be easiest? _____ Why? _____

- Which would probably be warmest? _____ Why? _____

PUP TENT FOR CAMPING

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Finish</i>
A. Cotton duck (a durable, closely-woven fabric, usually made of cotton)	5 feet by 7 feet	Flame-retardant Water-repellent
B. Nylon	5 feet by 7 feet	Flame-retardant

1. Which of the pup tents in the chart above would probably be lightest to pack? _____

Why? _____

2. Which would be most resistant to rain? _____ Why? _____

3. Which would dry out the quickest if it did get wet? _____ Why? _____

JEANS

You have a multitude of choices when buying jeans and you probably select different ones for different occasions. (NOTE: There may be more than one answer for each question.)

- A. 100 percent cotton denim
- B. 100 percent cotton denim with designer label
- C. 69 percent polyester; 31 percent cotton denim
- D. 100 percent cotton prewashed denim
- E. Sanforized 100 percent cotton denim

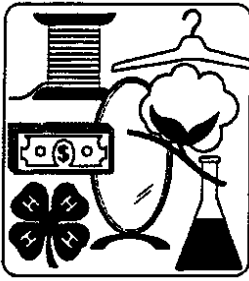
1. If you wanted jeans to shrink, which would be the best choices? _____ Why? _____

2. If you didn't want them to shrink, which would be best? _____ Why? _____

3. Which would be the warmest? _____ Why? _____

4. Which fabric would have the most strength? _____ Why? _____

Give a demonstration for your 4-H Club on what to watch for when buying textiles.



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Fabrics & Fashions

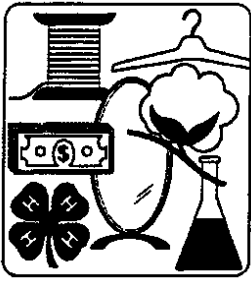
Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Activities

- Keep a record of income and expenditures for one month. Where and how can expenses be controlled?
- Make a list of immediate and anticipated needs. Identify the priority items.
- Learn the various types of stores in your community. Know the lines of merchandise stocked and the services provided by each. When is one store preferred over another?
- Be comparative shoppers. Know where to get the best merchandise and service you can afford.
- Participate in a group study tour of various department stores.
- Look into buying incentives. How do they affect buying? What is their effect on cost? What are the advantages and disadvantages of incentives?
- Do a comparison-shopping experiment on the next standard item you purchase. Compare different brands (fiber content, label message, price).
- Analyze three recent purchases. Discuss how you came to make each purchase? What would you do differently if you could make the purchases again?
- Observe five customers purchasing items. Did the customers appear to know what they wanted? Did sales people appear to know the product? Which traits of the sales person were pleasant and which were less desirable?
- Describe factors of a good sales relationship between the sales person and the customer.
- Give three examples of situations in which quantity buying is desirable.
- How should an unsatisfactory purchase be handled?
- What is the effect of impulse buying?
- Determine the actual cost of merchandise, including service (such as hemming or altering a garment).
- Determine the cost of maintenance for an item purchased. Was it an economical choice?
- When is a service contract economical?
- Set aside a file or dresser drawer for keeping warranties, guarantees, and labels attached to purchases. Develop the habit of using this information.
- Read a clothing label carefully. What does it tell you? Why is the label on the garment?
- Learn where to find reliable consumer information.
- Which stores, business and professional organizations, and government sources provide consumer information? What are their specific services?

- Study advertisements in newspapers and magazines. Select five which do not provide much information about the products advertised.
- Discuss how to say “no” to a sales person who tells you a garment looks good on you when you know it doesn’t.
- Discuss effective ways to register a complaint.



OKLAHOMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Consumer Buying for Young Men

How to buy shirts

Shirts play an important part in any young man's wardrobe. You can change the appearance of your entire outfit simply by changing your shirt. You may select a plain color or pattern, pin stripe, wide stripe, dobby, check plaid, geometric, or other design. These may be chosen in many colors.

There are two major shirt styles – the dress shirt and the sport shirt. The dress shirt is not as full in cut as the sport shirt. Materials for dress shirts include broadcloth, oxford and chambray, and the polyester and cotton blends. All of these fabrics may also be used for sport shirts, along with percales, gingham, and knits.

Collar Styles

The most noticeable thing about your shirt is the collar. There are several collar styles and you should find the one most becoming to you. Select a collar style that is becoming to the shape of your face.

Become familiar with two descriptive terms – points and spread. The points are the distance between the neckband and the collar tip. The spread is the distance between the collar points.

Look at your face in the mirror. Is it round, long and slender, or average? What type of collar will give you the effect you need? Here are seven basic shirt collar styles. Study them to learn which style is

most becoming to you.

- **Short point:** this is excellent for the long-necked, slim-faced person.
- **Spread:** this style has short points with medium spread between the points. It is very becoming to young men with thin faces or average builds.
- **Regular:** this type can be worn by a majority of all figure types. It has a medium point and a medium spread.
- **Button-down:** this collar is casual and youthful-looking and worn for both dress and sport occasions. It looks well on a figure of average build and flatters a young man with a broad build and short neck.
- **Tab:** this is a dressy style which looks well on the young man with the average face.
- **Low slope:** the low slope is cool, comfortable, and excellent for the thin neck.
- **Rounded:** this type is also youthful-looking and may be worn by a person with a thin or average face.

Cuff styles

If you select a long-sleeve shirt, you will have several cuff styles from which to choose.

- **Single or “barrel” cuff:** this one fastens with a lap and attached button.

- **French:** this type, often called a double cuff, is folded back and worn with cuff links.
- **Single cuff, with cuff link openings.**
- **Convertible:** this is a barrel-type cuff with an extra buttonhole which permits it to be worn with cuff links or as a regular buttoned cuff.

Shopping tips

- The buttonhole stitches should be close and firm and have no loose threads. The buttonholes should be placed exactly in the center front.
- Check to see that the buttons are smooth and clear. They should be stitched on securely.
- Study the label carefully for information such as colorfastness, perspiration resistance, shrinkage control, and fiber content. If a shirt is guaranteed not to shrink more than 1 percent, fit will not be affected after washing.

Selecting quality clothing

Good quality clothes are clothes that will be in style for a number of years and will hold up to hard wear while retaining their good appearance. They are not necessarily the most expensive clothes, but they may be. First, determine the quality of clothing you need to suit your needs. Items that are seldom worn do not have to be the best quality. They should have a good appearance, but durability will not be a concern. The clothes that are worn often, on the other hand, will need to be the best quality you can afford. Before making a major purchase, estimate what the item will cost per wearing.

Cost per wearing

To determine the cost per wearing, add the purchase price of an item to the care costs and divide by the number of times you think you will wear the item. For example, a suit you can wear for all but the coldest

months of the year costs \$300. You will wear the suit twice a week for nine months of the year, and it will last for three years. The suit will need to be cleaned about four times a year at a cost of about \$7 per cleaning.

Two wearings per week for nine months = $2 \times 4 \times 9 = 72$ wearings.

Seventy-two wearings per year for three years = 216 wearings.

Four cleanings per year for three years = $4 \times 3 = 12$ cleanings.

Twelve cleanings at \$7 per cleaning = \$84.

Purchase price of \$300 + \$84 (cost of care) = \$384 total cost.

Total cost of \$384 divided by 216 (number of wearings) = \$1.77 (cost per wearing).

If the suit is worn only once a week instead of twice the cost per wearing almost doubles.

Fabric

When selecting quality, durable clothes, the first thing to consider is the quality of the fabric. Look for a label or hangtag. The law requires that all garments have information stating fiber content of the fabric. Look, too, for information about special finishes, what care the garment requires and the name of the manufacturer or retailer.

Fabrics for slacks and suits should be firmly woven or knitted to retain shape and appearance for longer-lasting garments. Loosely-woven or knitted fabrics may be less durable than tighter construction, but they add a casual look to shirts, pullovers, and sports clothes.

Wool and cotton are the most popular

fibers used in menswear. Used alone or blended with polyester, they offer comfort, ease of care, wrinkle-resistance and aesthetic characteristics most men prefer. The addition of polyester to a natural fiber will add ease of care and wrinkle-resistance properties.

Wool or wool/polyester blends are ideal for suits because they hold shape and resist wrinkles. Wool has long been a favorite for men's suits and coats. Wool tailors easily, holds its shape well and resists wrinkles.

There are two types of wool fibers – worsted and woolens. A worsted fabric is made of long, fine woolen fibers that are tightly twisted. This twist makes the fabric particularly durable. Worsted will take a sharp crease and hold its shape. If you crumple them in your hand, they will spring back to shape. Gabardine and sharkskin are worsted fabrics. They will become shiny after wear and cleaning. Plaids and stripes in worsted will not show shine readily.

The second type of wool fiber is woolens. Woolens are fabrics made from fibers that are too short to be twisted. These fabrics are soft, do not hold pressing as well and are not as durable as worsted fabrics. They do not wrinkle easily and are thicker and fuzzier than worsted. Examples of woolens are tweeds, twists, some flannels and homespun.

The quality of a suit

After you have taken a look at fabric, notice some other things about the suit. There are some definite signs of good quality and workmanship.

- **Straight of grain:** Grain means the lengthwise yarns are perpendicular to the crosswise yarns, if the suit is not cut on the true grain, it will lose its shape in wear and cleaning. The crosswise yarns should run straight across the chest and sleeves without sloping down.

- **Matching of a pattern:** in the best quality suits, the cloth is cut so the patterns match exactly. The matching of patterns does not make the suit wear better, but it does increase the value and quality of the suit. Plaids should match at the center back seam of the jacket, the side seams, and armholes, where the coat fronts meet when buttoned and where the collar rolls over and meets the back. Fabric patterns should match on the pocket flaps and welts and where the collar is notched.
- **Lining:** a firm twill weave will give more service because it is the most durable.
- **Buttonholes:** any well-made buttonhole will have close, even stitching on both the underside and the topside and will have well-reinforced ends.
- **Coat front:** the coat front is important. This is the foundation fabric between the coat material and the lining. The material is sometimes referred to as hair canvas or interfacing. The more wool the interfacing has, the better it will hold its shape. A good quality interfacing will spring back when you crush the coat lapel in your hand. Look at some suits. Select a high-quality one and crush the lapel to see if it will spring back. Then select a low-quality suit, give it the same test, and compare what you see. Having done this, you have begun to judge quality.
- **Coat pockets:** Coat pockets of good quality suits should be made of cotton twill – a durable, closely-woven, and lightweight fabric.

Know good fit

A suit must fit well in order to look good. It will also wear better and will cost less for

upkeep. Let the salesperson measure you and help you determine your proportions. The size of a suit is determined by chest measurement. Jackets are proportioned so you can get short, regular, long, or extra-long lengths. The size of slacks is determined by the waist measurement (taken over shirt) and the length of the inside seam.

When you find a suit you like, try it on. Try on both the pants and the jacket, not just the jacket alone. Look at the suit carefully. Walk around, move your arms back and forth, and sit down. Does the suit feel comfortable? Are the chests, back, and under collar areas of the jacket free from wrinkles? Do the armholes feel comfortable? Is the seat of the trousers comfortable? Is the waistband snug but comfortable? A well-fitted suit will hang straight and not pull or appear baggy anywhere. Study these sketches carefully to determine how your suit should fit.

Workmanship

If the quality of the fabric is good, the next thing to consider is the workmanship. Turn the item inside out and carefully check the following points:

- The fabric design should match at the seams, sleeves, pockets, and front button closing.
- The inside seams should be wide enough for altering, if necessary. Exposed raw edges that can ravel last longer when overcast or finished.
- Check for adequate ease in the cut of the garment.
- Check stitching for straight, even, secure seams.
- Check linings for proper ease and smoothness.
- Check buttons and buttonholes for neat, even, secure stitching.
- Check for added reinforcement of points of stress – pockets, fly, belt loops.
- Check for smooth sleeves, lapels, and collars.

- Check pockets for adequate depth, secure stitching, and durable fabric.
- Check collars, cuffs, lapels, and waistband for proper interfacing to hold shape for the life of the garments. Squeeze the lapel in one hand. It should spring back without wrinkles.

Accessories

Accessories add the finishing touch to an outfit. As with other items in your wardrobe, select accessories with your wardrobe and activities in mind and buy the best quality you can afford for accessories that you will wear often.

Shoes

Shoes that fit well are essential to your health and well-being. Never sacrifice fit and comfortable shoes for fashion and good looks. As with other accessories, shoes should complete your outfit, not be the focal point. A well-balanced wardrobe will have casual, dress, sport, and work shoes. Select a basic color and style shoe that will go with a number of outfits. Dress or business shoes will usually be leather slip-on or lace-up in black or dark brown. Casual shoes may be made of leather, canvas, or other fabric and will vary in style (penny loafers, deck shoes). Smooth leather shoes usually hold their shape and look better longer than non-leather shoes. Casual shoes come in a variety of colors; however, a basic dark color will go with more things and not show soil as easily as lighter colors.

Be a good shoe shopper

Misfitted shoes are the major reason that 90 percent of women and 10 percent of men have foot troubles. Most of the troubles have developed before the age of 15. Take time to fit your shoes correctly.

When selecting shoes

Have your feet measured each time you buy a pair of shoes. Stand when this

measurement is taken, since your feet are longest when standing. Try on both shoes. Walk around in both shoes and take time to be sure they fit. Check the following:

- The fit at the heel (should not slip).
- The fit at the sides (should hug the foot).
- The fit at the instep (does not bulge).
- The toes (sufficient room – about ½ inches).

A properly fitted shoe supports the weight-bearing areas of the foot. Select styles which look attractive on your feet. The price you pay depends on how often you plan to wear the shoes. Economize on the shoes you seldom wear. For the shoes you plan to live in, buy the best you can afford.

Do

- Allow plenty of time to shop for shoes.
- Shop for shoes in the early afternoon.
- Buy shoes to fit the occasion.
- Learn to recognize quality leather.
- Buy shoes with good quality lining.

Don't

- Expect a shoe to fit better after it is broken in. If it doesn't fit in the store, it will never fit.
- Rely on numerical size. Your correct

size may vary among brands.

- Wear the same pair of shoes every day.
- Pass on hand-me-downs. They can cause foot problems for someone else.

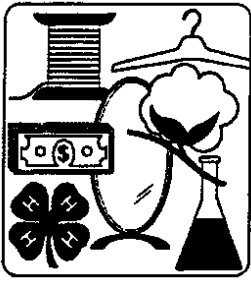
Belts

Belts should coordinate with shoes in style and color. A leather belt 1 to 1¼ inches wide is most often used for dress or business. A leather black and brown reversible belt with a simple gold or silver buckle is a good choice for dress and business. Casual belts come in leather, canvas, or other fabrics. Select one that will compliment your casual shoes.

Ties

Just the right tie can pull together an outfit of unrelated colors that may otherwise look out of place. For instance, a navy blazer, grey shirt, and green slacks would look totally uncoordinated unless pulled together with a tie that has those exact colors. A tie should be tied so the tip will reach the belt buckle but not extend below it. Clip-on ties are acceptable only if they are the right length, which they seldom are.

Select a color that blends with your suit, sport coat, shirt, and pants.



4-H Fabrics & Fashions

Consumer Education

Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)

Menswear

A man's wardrobe should be built around his lifestyle, career, and personal taste.

The first step in selecting a wardrobe is to determine size and what to look for in a good fit.

Size

Men's clothes are sized by body dimensions. Always try on jackets, slacks, and suits before purchasing them. Most men's clothing stores will have someone who is knowledgeable in taking measurements. If not, get a friend or parent to help, using the following procedures:

- **Neck** – Measure at the base of the neck to the nearest inch. Make certain the tape measure is not too tight.
- **Chest** – Measure around the fullest part of the chest. Keep tape under the arms and over the tips of the shoulder blades.
- **Sleeve length** – Hold arm slightly bent and away from the body.
- **Waist** – Measure where you wear your waistband. Pull the tape so it is snug but not tight.

Take these measurements on a pair of slacks that fit:

- **Slack length** – Measure from the top of the waistband down the side to the finished edge of the slack leg. If the waistband is more than 1 ½ inches wide, measure approximately where the natural waist falls.

- **Inseam** – Measure from the point where the crotch seam and inseam meet to the finished edge of the slack leg.

Fit

When determining the fit of menswear, consider the following.

- Activity of the wearer.
- Personal preference.
- Style of the garment.

Clothes that are worn by very active individuals will need to fit more loosely than those worn for business and inactive times. Garment style may often determine how loose or closely-fitted a garment should be. Test clothes for comfort and sufficient ease in walking, sitting, and standing.

Coats, Jackets and Blazers

Coats, jackets, and blazers are sized by the chest measurement and are proportioned by height (short, regular, long, and extra long). Consider the following when checking for fit:

- An all-weather coat or top coat should be large enough to be worn over a jacket or sweater.
- Coats should fall naturally from the shoulders, with the lower edge being parallel with the floor.
- Jackets should always cover the seat of the slacks.

- To check jacket sleeve length, place your arms at your side and cup your hand. The lower edge of the jacket should end in the cupped hand.
- Buttons should close without stretching or pulling.
- The collar should hug the back of the neck and about ½ inch of the shirt should extend above the jacket collar.
- The lapels should lie flat against the body and end in a soft roll at the top button.
- The back should fit smoothly without wrinkles. The vent should lie flat.
- The sleeve of a jacket should fall straight from the shoulder and end just below the wrist bone. This will allow between ¼ and ½ inch of the shirt to show.

Slacks

Slacks are sized by waist and inseam measurements. The waist measurement is always given first. Slacks labeled 34/32 will fit a 32-inch inseam. Purchase unhemmed slacks for a better fit in length.

Slacks that fit well will hang without wrinkles and bulges. They will allow enough room in the crotch, seat, and thigh areas for ease in sitting and walking. Slacks are cut with a short, average, or long rise (distance from crotch to waistband). The crease will fall in the center of the leg. A well-fitted pair of slacks will have a waistband that is not too loose or too tight and fits at the natural waist. The width of the slack leg, style of slacks, and shoe heel height will determine the slack length. When having slacks hemmed, always wear the shoes you will wear with the slacks. The slacks should fall straight to the top of the shoe. The slack leg may break slightly or not at all. The hem of a cuffed slack leg is straight from front to back. The hem of a plain slack leg slants down to the top of the heel in back.

The construction details on trousers will also determine how they look and fit.

Cotton and cotton blends are popular for men's shirts, work pants, jeans, overalls, and underwear. Cotton, an absorbent fiber, makes a cool, comfortable fabric for hot, humid weather.

Sport shirts provide colorful patterns and textures for the casual look with casual clothing.

Fibers such as rayon, ramie, silk, and linen usually are blended with other fibers to enhance the appearance and quality of the workmanship in a garment.

Selecting a color and weight of fabric that can be worn year-round will extend the wardrobe. Stick with basic colors when buying quality clothes you plan on wearing for several years. Avoid high fashion colors and fabrics that will go out of style quickly.

Shirts

A long-sleeved tailored or dress shirt is sized by the neck and sleeve length. Dress shirts with short sleeves are sized by the neck. Neck sizes come in ½-inch increments. Sleeve sizes are measured in one-inch increments. Sizes can be found inside the shirt collar band. Neck size is listed first, followed by sleeve length, for example, a shirt with a 16½-inch neck and 34-inch sleeve would be sized 16½ 34. Casual, sport, and work shirts that are sized small, medium, large, and extra large do not allow for the variety of sizes found in tailored shirts. Shirts sized S, M, L, XL fit the following neck sizes: S – 14/14½; M – 15/15½; L – 16/16½; XL – 17/17½. Shirts will come in regular, tapered and full cuts. The regular cut is slightly tapered at the waist. The full cut does not taper at the waist, and the tapered is very tapered at the waist.

A shirt that is well-fitted will be comfortable to wear and have a pleasing appearance. The collar will not gap at the neck nor will it be too tight. A long sleeve will end approximately ¼ to ½ inch below the wrist bone when the arm is bent slightly. The shirt will have enough fullness to

prevent gapping at the buttons when seated but will not have an excess of fullness. The shirttail will be long enough to remain neatly tucked into the waistband.