

PERSONAL SHOPPING HABITS

(Reference: Teen Guide, McGraw Hill 1990)

AS YOU SHOP FOR CLOTHING, CHECK FOR THE FOLLOWING

1. PROPER FIT

Clothing comes in all different sizes. Special sizing for children, special sizes that are hard to fit (extra tall or heavy), and average sizes. It is not uncommon for two companies who both make sizes to fit teenagers, to use different sizing and so would fit differently. One person might fit a size 9 in one brand and a 7 in another brand. It is best to try on certain items to check the fit, jeans and swimwear are good examples.

Tee-shirts and certain sweaters can be purchased easier without trying them on, but it is always a good idea to try things on. This way you can check for colors and styles that are good for you as well as a good fit.

2. QUALITY OF THE GARMENT

How well or how poorly something is made is the quality. There are two factors that enter in, construction techniques and quality of the fabric used.

Clothing that is higher priced usually has a better quality fabric and better construction methods. This is not always the case, so check before you buy. Shopping the sales at more expensive clothing stores can allow you to buy better quality at a more affordable price.

SOME TIPS TO WATCH FOR

- a. Check the seams for loose stitches, will they hold up under stress? Have they been sewn once or twice for better hold?
- b. How does the garment hang? Do the seams hang straight or do they twist or pucker?
- c. Are facings sewn down or will they stick out?
- d. Check zippers, hooks and eyes, snaps and ties, are they smooth, sewn on securely, no twists or puckers in the zipper. How are the buttons sewn on? Will they last? Are the button holes tightly stitched to prevent fraying?
- e. Look at the fabric, have plaids or stripes been matched? This is a sign that more care has been given this garment in construction. Are there any flaws in the fabric or slub yarns that will pull out or cause a hole later on? If the fabric has a wash on it such as acid or stone wash, are there signs of damage to the fabric such as little holes or frayed edges?

3. UPKEEP

The upkeep of the garment is important to consider. Will it cost much to maintain or clean this article? As a general rule natural fibers such as cotton, wool, silk, linen require more care than man-made fibers.

Watch for cheaper garments that look great but can only be dry-cleaned.

Don't buy 100% cotton items if you do not have time to iron them, don't buy hand wash only items if you will not hand wash them.

4. READ CARE LABELS (more information is given on care labels in the Textiles unit)

Care labels will tell you the best way to care for the item you are purchasing. These are valuable sources of information and should be followed very carefully so you will get the most for your clothing dollar.

EXAMPLE OF GARMENT COST EVALUATION

GARMENT	PRICE	CLEANING COST	EXPECTED LIFE	COST PER YEAR
WOOL BLAZER	\$150.00	\$ 36.00	4 years	\$ 46.50
POLYESTER BLAZER	\$ 86.00	\$ 18.00	2 years	\$ 51.50
SILK SHIRT	\$ 28.00	\$.75	3 years	\$ 9.58
POLYESTER SKIRT	\$ 22.00	\$.75	2 years	\$ 11.38
WOOL SLACKS	\$ 65.00	\$ 15.00	3 years	\$ 26.67
POLYESTER SLACKS	\$ 25.00	\$.50	2 years	\$ 12.75

Why is the cheapest garment not necessarily the most economical?

Machine - washable fabrics are often less expensive to maintain than silk and wool.

Why do you think people still prefer silk or wool?

If you are still growing, what effect does this have on a garments expected life?

How will it effect your decision?

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