PERSONAL SHOPPING HABITS

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 one, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GARMENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>CLEANING COST</th>
<th>EXPECTED LIFE</th>
<th>COST PER YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WOOL BLAZER</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$36.00</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>$46.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLYESTER BLAZER</td>
<td>$86.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$51.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILK SHIRT</td>
<td>$28.00</td>
<td>$.75</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$9.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLYESTER SKIRT</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td>$.75</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$11.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOOL SLACKS</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>$26.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLYESTER SLACKS</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$.50</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>$12.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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?

(Reference: [TEEN GUIDE](#) McGraw Hill 1990)