

MAKE EVERY THREAD COUNT.

Oregonians are practical and savvy. That's why more and more of us are choosing quality clothes that save money, last longer and reduce waste. Well-made clothes are available for every budget, are built to last, and can be worn often and for years to come. It's about making choices that make sense—which is just part of who we are.

LEARN HOW TO HELP

Quality doesn't have to be code for "expensive." Well-made clothes aren't determined by the price tag and simple care can make those pieces last, which saves you the hassle and cost of replacing them. You can extend the life of your clothes and your investment by taking a few easy steps.

STEP 1: LOOK FOR SIGNS OF QUALITY

EDGES AND HEMS: Cut or "raw" edges and hems can lead to unraveling and loose, hanging threads. Be careful in choosing garments with these features as they may require special laundering.

GOOD QUALITY THREAD AND STRONG, EVEN STITCHES: Give the fabric a gentle pull to see if the thread breaks or pops. Check for rippled, puckered or twisted hems and seams. Avoid garments that don't appear to hang smoothly.

FABRICS: All types of fabrics, whether natural or synthetic, have advantages and disadvantages. Consider the quality of the fabric itself (thickness, softness, stretch, etc.) and how suitable the fabric is for that particular item. Will it be comfortable and durable?

LININGS: For suits and other lined garments, check to see if the lining hangs loosely and doesn't cause any pulling or puckering.

MATCHED PATTERNS: If the garment has stripes or plaid, the pattern should match up at the seams.

QUALITY BUTTONS AND BUTTONHOLES: Buttonholes should be well stitched with no loose threads or raw fabric showing. Test the button in the buttonhole to make sure it's easy to button up the garment.



STEP 2: CARE FOR YOUR CLOTHES

CLEAN CORRECTLY: Follow labels when washing your clothes to keep them looking better and lasting longer.



STAIN REMOVAL: Discover what sort of care is best for the stain. Cold water, hot water or stain treatment? Some quick online research can save that garment you love.

CALL IN THE EXPERTS: Locate a good dry cleaner and tailor that can help keep your clothes clean and well-fitted.



SIMPLE FIXES: Learn the simple but satisfying art of re-attaching a button, mending a tear or applying a patch.



USE THE DRYER SPARINGLY: High heat fades and shrinks material, and also breaks down elastic fibers in clothes, causing breakage and stretching. When possible, line or flat dry your clothes. If you must dry your clothes, use the lowest setting.



GROUP SIMILAR ITEMS AND TURN INSIDE OUT: When washing, turn jeans and graphic shirts inside out to prevent fading and wear. Wash similar items together (for example, all jeans) to prevent harsher fabrics from wearing on softer ones.



CONSIDER COLD WATER: For most laundry, you can use cold water and less detergent than directed. This prevents exposure to excess heat or chemicals that contribute to fading or wearing out.



STEP 3: WEAR THOSE CLOTHES OFTEN AND FOR YEARS TO COME!

Every item in your closet has a cost-per-wear: the longer you wear that shirt or pair of jeans, the more you get out of your investment. A closet carefully stocked with several quality items will outlast a closet packed with poorly made, disposable clothes. So choose quality—you'll look good, save money and help care for our environment. And if you must retire an item of clothing, give it a second life by donating it to an organization that accepts previously worn clothing or sell it through a consignment shop.



<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/wpcampaigns/Pages/Make-Every-Thread-Count.aspx>