



+ PLANNING  
= THE WARDROBE

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# PLANNING THE WARDROBE

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What shall I wear? This is a question we have to answer daily. A well thought out plan for the wardrobe will help in solving this problem. Clothes are needed for the different seasons as well as the various occasions. A plan for a summer and a winter wardrobe should be worked out, and both should include garments for the various types of wear.

Twice a year we need to go over our wardrobes and do some careful planning. The best dressed women are not the wealthiest, but they are the wisest. They realize the importance of looking their best, and devote a certain amount of time to it. They plan well, take time to buy, and take care of their clothes.

In planning the wardrobe we always have fashion to cope with. Failure to conform affects one's social position and in many cases economic status. Few people can afford to follow fashion's whims. Most of us have to make a choice. The clothing we buy is influenced by many factors. Perhaps the most pinching is income. Good dressing on a small income requires a lot of thinking, a lot of home work such as washing, ironing, pressing, mending, sewing, a lot of bargain hunting, and a lot of style and own personality studying.

Go over your wardrobe, fill in the inventory blanks, giving the information called for. This will be very helpful in bringing to mind every garment on hand and will give a base on which to build the clothing wardrobe.

A plan for the wardrobe covers several years. Articles such as coats and suits are used more than one year. A well planned budget makes one avoid hit and miss buying.

Begin your clothing plan by considering the following points:

1. Possible social occasions for which you must have complete ensemble. You will consider the location of your home and the type of activities in which you will be engaged. Your plan will probably call for clothes for home, church, general wear and afternoon or evening wear.

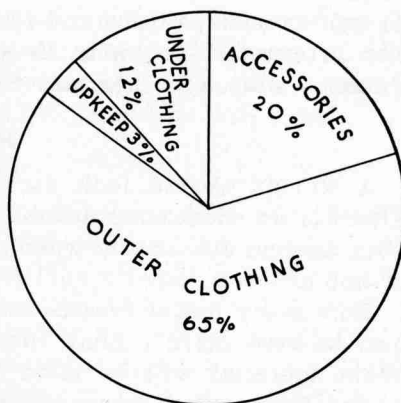
2. Consider clothing already on hand that can still be used. (Refer to your clothing inventory.)

3. Select a color around which you wish to build your plan. A basic color for the main articles of clothing and the expensive accessories. The coat is usually the most expensive garment and the one worn the most and the one used for several years. It should be a staple color such as black, brown, gray or navy. These colors combine well with other colors. Other garments do not have to be the same color, but should blend. Know what colors are most becoming to you.

4. Study what is new. Look for those new distinguishing little details. Know the new colors, fabrics and lines.

5. Make a personal analysis. Stand in front of a full length mirror and get acquainted with yourself. Discover your good points, play up to these, learn your bad points, conceal these. What is your type?

6. Amount of money that can be spent. According to clothing budgets, 12 to 20 percent is the amount of the income allotted to clothing. This amount is to be divided between outer clothing, underclothing, accessories, upkeep. If the cash income is \$1,000 per year this means that \$120 to \$200 can be spent for clothing. If there are five in the family the individual allowance for new clothing becomes around \$35 per person. This is flexible depending on such circumstances as occupation of parents, age of children and standard of living.



7. In planning the wardrobe, do not fail to take into consideration its upkeep. Some fabrics shed dirt easily, while it sticks to others. Some fabrics clean easily, some materials wrinkle and crush badly. Some fabrics are loosely woven and wear quickly, thereby requiring constant mending; some stretch, some fade. Manufacturers of fabrics and of garments are giving more and more information with their goods. Read the labels, ask merchant for information before buying.

With pencil and paper begin your plan by making out a list of the actual necessities for your summer wardrobe, and for your winter wardrobe. Needs for the wardrobe will probably run something like this:

**For Summer**

- Coat or
- Light weight suit
- Dresses for home, aprons, smocks
- Dresses for street, church
- Dresses for afternoon
- Foundation garments
- Underwear and rest garments
- Accessories
- Play or sports clothes
- Shoes, hose

**For Winter**

- Coat or suit
- Sweater
- Dresses for work, aprons, smocks
- Dresses, general or best
- Blouses—skirts
- Foundation garments
- Underwear
- Accessories
- Rain coat—galoshes
- Shoes, hose, gloves

Next decide how many of each type of garment is actually needed. Needs vary with different individuals, some women can keep their supply of house dresses up by adding two new ones a year, while it will take four or more for another. Sufficient underwear for frequent change is needed, for everyone should be personally neat and clean at all times.

Go back to your inventory and see how many of these "actual needs" are already on hand, then list on the chart the articles you will have to buy.

Decide which garments you will buy ready made; which ones you will make at home.

### **Dresses for the Wardrobe**

The purpose for which the dress is to be used determines the material to be used. For the house dress, prints, gingham, chambray or other cotton material are most suitable. For general wear, wool, silk, rayon, as well as some cottons and linens. For better dresses wool, silk, rayons. For afternoons or party dresses voile, organdie, swiss, chiffon, sheer woolens, silks, or other materials.

#### **House Dresses**

A woman should look as neat and trim at home as anywhere else. There is no excuse for dowdiness. Her family is more important to her than anyone else in the world. She should be careful of her appearance at home.

How many house dresses needed per year? How many from last year may be used again? Shall they be made at home, or bought ready made? What material will be most suitable for house dresses. Consider the design for comfort, appearance, and easy laundering.

#### **Best Dress**

What material, design, color will fit in best with rest of wardrobe? Will last year's dress do for this year's best or will it serve as second best? Make, or buy ready made?

#### **General Wear**

A dress, or suit, or perhaps both, will be needed here. If suit is chosen, then comes the question of blouses. What material will be best? Select color that will go with coat and other articles, especially the accessories. Usually for a general wear suit or dress, a dark shade of some solid color is most usable. Keep in mind the carry-over possibilities.

#### **Coat**

Planning the wardrobe enables one to avoid having to buy both a winter and spring coat the same year. It also enables one to alternate a suit along with either a summer or winter coat.

The coat is the most important garment in the wardrobe. It is the part of the wardrobe seen most often. It should be smart, of as good material as well as cut, as will fit the purse of its buyer. It should be a staple color, one that will combine with others.

If the coat is one from last year, look it over carefully, see if any of the lines need changing to give it a newer look, see if any other remodeling is necessary such as new lining, buttons, pockets. Allow for cost of remodeling in your plan.

#### **Sweaters or Light Weight Wraps**

Both summer and winter one is constantly needing a light weight wrap, so something of this type should be included.

#### **Underwear**

Slips, panties—number needed—cost.  
Number on hand.

Made at home or buy ready made—compare costs.

A slip is a part of the foundation for the dress. It should be of good cut and well fitted.

#### Foundation Garments

Good foundation garments are necessities for health as well as appearance. Select the best the budget will allow. Have several, so that they may be kept clean. Whether this garment is a corset, corselett, girdle and brassier is an individual matter. It should be well fitted.

#### Rest Garments

These garments should be included in the wardrobe plan, for all of us need rest; housecoat, or kimono for lounging, bathrobe for winter. For sleeping, gowns or pajamas, bed jacket; list the number needed, number on hand, number to be made, and their cost.

#### Play Clothes

Many plans will need to include clothes for sports, such as bathing suit or beach clothes.

#### Party Dress

Include if needed. In selecting an evening dress, consider the style. A dress of this type is seldom worn in comparison with other garments in wardrobe, so if possible select a design which will carry over or will have make-over possibilities.

#### Accessories

Plan carefully for accessories. One's dress or suit may appear entirely different, or serve for different occasions by the choice and change of accessories.

#### Accessory Buying Suggestions

**Shoes.**—Purchase with care, keeping in mind comfort, health, appearance. Good shoes are the most economical ones. The shoe should be built on the last that suits the foot. Be sure they are long enough. They should never make the foot conspicuous. Avoid highly decorated shoes as they call attention to the feet. Stout women should avoid high French heels, as they make a woman look top heavy. The oxford with medium heels gives more comfort for daily wear, while the pump is usually selected for dressier wear. Black, blue and brown are standard colors for shoes, with white coming in for summer. Various seasons rush in other colors. One must keep in mind her basic wardrobe color, and her budget when tempted to go off on a color flare in shoes.



**Hose.**—Plan for hose to use at home, for general wear, and dress up. There will be service weight, semi-service, and sheer to select from. Summer colors are usually lighter than winter. Ask your sales lady for the season's best shades. Select those that blend best with your clothes.

**Hats.**—The hat is another important article in the wardrobe. Know the styles of the season, but select the hat that is becoming to you. A conservative, good quality felt or straw will carry over several seasons, while a fad hat goes out with the season.

**Handbags.**—Some seasons these tie up in color and fabric with shoes, or gloves. Sometimes it is with the hat. Shapes and styles in handbags vary—know these.

**Gloves.**—Kid or fabric, they may match in color or be in contrast.

**Scarfs, handkerchiefs, buttonnaires** often give just the right touch of color. Know how to use them. Use costume jewelry cautiously.

Upkeep of the wardrobe is an important item in the clothing plan. Care of clothes is important from the economic as well as personal appearance standpoint. Pressing, cleaning, spot removal, repairing must be considered.

### SUMMARY

In summing up, know yourself and some principles of good dress. Plan well. Twice a year, spring and fall, go over your wardrobe. Keep in mind that a few garments well chosen, of good quality, make up a much more satisfactory wardrobe than many cheap garments. The basic dress is a good thing to keep in mind, one dress a season, of good material, well made of a conservative cut and color, may be varied for different occasions by changing the accessories. Know your most becoming colors—plan your wardrobe with a definite color scheme in mind. The woman with limited income will choose staple colors for her carry-over garments, such as suits or coats. Avoid a complete outfit in one color with everything in the same shade.

Don't expect your wardrobe plan to become workable in one season. It will take several to get it well under way. Settle on a definite yearly sum to be spent for clothes. Cultivate will power, you will need it. When tempted to bargain counters, stop and think twice. So often so-called bargains turn out to be anything else. Shop in the morning when you feel good and fresh, never when tired or weary.

The wardrobe plan will enable one to have appropriate clothes for every occasion. It will also enable one to make their clothing money go further, so begin now on your wardrobe plan, try it and see if it does not save you time, worry and money.

The following blanks will assist you in making your wardrobe plans. On page 7 list clothing on hand at present. On the next page, list garments needed.



