

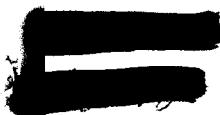
Family Plan for Clothing Needs



	"AS IS"	REPAIR	DISCARD
MOTHER	DRESS SUIT	COAT	JACKET
DAD	SUIT SLACKS SWEATER	SWEATER JACKET	COAT
JOHNNY	JACKET SLACKS	OVERALLS	SUIT
MARY		JACKET	COAT

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A8
no. 221



EXTENSION SERVICE
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Family Plan for Clothing Needs

Clothing is one of the necessities that has to be considered when making plans for family living. The cost of clothing, unlike the more regular expenditure for food, comes in varying amounts at irregular and often unexpected intervals. In no two years in the life of the family are there exactly the same individual needs, or the same social demands or the same wear and tear on the family's wardrobe.

Clothing prices vary more widely and sometimes more rapidly than do prices of almost any other group of commodities the family buys. And the quality of goods offered for sale varies even more than do the prices.

The problem of clothing the family of generous means also presents a decided contrast to the problem of clothing the family with a moderate or low income.

Since clothing is not equally important to all people, each family must work out for itself a clear conception of the place clothing is to have in the family's living standards.

Whether a large or small amount is used for clothing, it takes thoughtful planning and skillful buying to build efficient and becoming wardrobes for the different members of the family. It is safe to say that for one reason or another the largest percentage of families is concerned about making the most of the clothing dollar.

I. Plan Before You Buy

The first rule in supplying the clothing needs is therefore to plan before you buy. Make your plan a family project. Planning starts at home on paper with an inventory of what is needed for work, school, sports, play, clubs and other social activities. The ages of the various members will also enter into the plan.

What will each member need? First decide upon necessary additions, then those articles you would like to have but which can wait until the more pressing needs are met.

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Before determining what is needed, first find out what is available. Take stock of the clothes on hand. Make an inventory. This is important for all members of the family, so each member who is able should help. Check each item for condition. Better still, when in doubt try things on. The age of the garment is not important if it is wearable and looks well on the person.

As you go along, separate your clothes into groups:

1. Those that can be worn as they are.
2. Those that require some changes.
3. Those that are no longer wearable.

The last group, (3) if not worn out, should be disposed of either by making over for someone else, by giving it to some organization that will relay it to persons in need, or through a local rummage sale. There is nothing more discouraging than garments no longer usable taking up space in crowded closets.

Group (2) may have many possibilities. There may be only minor repairs or a garment may require complete restyling. Whatever is needed, your advantage is greater if you know how to do it yourself. Study the relationship of garments. Which ones can best be worn together? You may be able to work out new combinations and thus make your wardrobe more interesting.

II. Plan Your Clothing Purchases and Buy Only According To Plan Avoid Impulse Buying.

The next move is to plan clothing purchases. List the items to be purchased. Suppose we consider a family of husband, wife and two children, a boy 14 years old and a girl 12. The family's clothing list calls for a fall jacket and winter overcoat for the husband once in three years, a winter coat and a suit or spring coat for the wife once in three years, and an overcoat once in two years for each of the children. It will be easier for a family to take care of such purchases if they buy the boy a coat one year and his sister a coat the next year. Since the children are still growing rapidly, they decide to buy overcoats for them at the beginning of the season.

In order to spread the clothing expenditures along through the year and cut down cost, the wife buys her winter coat at the January sales. The next year her husband buys his winter

coat at the January sales. The third year both husband and wife buy new lighter weight coats. The wife may buy hers at Easter and the husband buys his early in the fall before it is time to consider coats for the children.

Because no two families have exactly the same needs or the same income, each family must work out its own plan in the way that makes the best use of its resources.

III. Points To Consider When You Buy

Choose the right quality for your purpose. Don't spend more than your plan allows. Compare values and prices in several stores. Take advantage of sales. Learn to judge quality.

1. Look for the label that tells:
 - a. What the garment is made of
 - b. How is it made
 - c. What service will it give
 - d. What care will it require
 - e. Who makes or sells it
 - f. Special finishes - find out if the fabric has a special finish and what care it requires
2. Look for correct size and fit:
 - a. Fit and correct size are important - major alterations are costly.
 - b. Consider style and fashion - study fashion trends.
 - c. Buy clothes that can be worn for several occasions - basic in line, fabric and color; garments that can be dressed up or down through several seasons. Avoid fads or extreme fashions that will go out of style quickly.

Remember, one or two garments well chosen is better than four or five unrelated and poorly chosen garments. The smart looking garment seen in the store window must be right for you to be a success; nothing takes the place of trying it on. Check with the mirror, walk around, stretch, reach and sit down. It should be comfortable as well as right in appearance. If your clothes are carefully selected, you should be able to wear them over a longer period of time.

Making some of your own clothes helps to cut the cost from 20 to 50 percent on each garment and at the same time you can have more individual garments.

IV. Take Care Of Your Clothes

Clothes look new longer, wear better and are always ready to go when in good condition. Care adds to wear.

To develop helpful habits for all members of the family:

1. Consider the best use of closet space. Closet accessories are helpful.
2. Put clothes on suitable hangers after wearing.
3. Brush garments to extend time between cleaning. Use medium soft brush for sturdy fabrics and softer brushes for delicate fabrics.
4. Boxes or hat stands keep hats in good order.
5. Make the best possible use of dresser drawer space.
6. Pack away out-of-season clothes.
7. Before storing woolens, wash or dry clean them. Then use some reliable moth preparations in amounts recommended on the package and seal the box or container. Wash cottons before storage to remove starches and spots, store in boxes or garment bags.
8. Collect mending supplies in a handy place and make repairs promptly.
9. Garment bags protect garments from dust.
10. Change clothes when you change activities.
11. The well pressed look is obtained by frequent and correct pressing.
12. Have a few spot removers on hand and know how and when to use them. If the spot is difficult, it is better to send the garment to a commercial cleaner. Caution: dry cleaning at home is dangerous and should not be practiced.

You and your family, working together, can dress and look well if:

- You plan before you buy.
- Buy only according to plan.
- Know how to judge and recognize values.
- Take care of your clothes.

The final test of your clothes is the pleasure you have in wearing them.

Suggested Outline for Planning your clothing purchases- 3 year period

Item	For whom	Approximate cost	When to purchase	Date when purchased	Actual price paid
Coat	Son	\$35.00	Sept, '55		
Coat	Daughter	\$45.00	Sept. '56		
Coat	Mother	\$75.00	Jan. '56		
Coat	Dad	\$55.00	Jan. '57		
Lighter coat	Mother	\$55.00	Apr. '57		
Lighter coat	Dad	\$45.00	Aug. '57		

Available bulletins that will be helpful in carrying out your plan:

1. "Learn to Mend", Circular No. A-128, NDAC, Extension Service
2. "Learn to Sew", Circular No. 187, NDAC Extension Service
3. "Skirts, How to Make Them", Special Circular, NDAC Extension Service.
4. "Patterns - Selection and Use", Special Circular, NDAC Extension Service.
5. "Stain Removal From Fabrics", U.S.D.A. No. FB 1474
6. "Clothes Moths", U.S.D.A. No. 145
7. "Sweaters, Selection and Care", Circular No. 185 NDAC Extension Service
8. "Buying Sweaters for the Family", U.S.D.A. No. 16
9. "Buying Women's Coats and Suits", U.S.D.A. No. 31
10. "Buying Men's Suits", U.S.D.A. Miscellaneous Publication, No. 688
11. "When You Buy a Suit", Special Circular, NDAC Extension Service
12. "Buying Your Home Sewing Machine", U.S.D.A. Home and Garden Bulletin No. 38.