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## TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System

### FOCUS ON MEN'S FASHIONS

S.O.S. Shopper:

Good values in men's clothing can often be found this month. When you are sale shopping, it is important to consider fashion, fit, workmanship and wardrobe coordination. I hope this leaflet, *Focus on Men's Fashions*, will help you find big savings.

The S.O.S. letter series and other educational programs are provided at no charge by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Extension publications are available from my office to give you shopping guides for other items you may find on sale this month. If you would like to receive any of these bulletins or know more about other Extension programs, please contact me.

Happy Sales!

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County Extension Agent



## FOCUS ON MEN'S FASHIONS

Men's fashions offer an opportunity for a wide variety of looks, personally suited to the individual man's tastes and lifestyle.

There are four basic style groups from which to select. These may be called the country squire, city chic, functional casual and the boutique mix. Within each group are many variations of styling detail from which to choose. Suits, blazers and slacks, vests, sweaters and leisure wear are found in each group.

A man may select clothing from one or all of the style groups depending on his preferences and activities. The wide variety of colors, patterns and fabrics available make it easy for men to achieve a unique and becoming personal style.

### Fit

No matter how fashionable a new garment is, a man will not be well-dressed if it does not fit. A look of naturalness and ease is more flattering than a tight-fitting garment that hugs the body. The only way to be sure an item of clothing will fit is to try it. A garment should be comfortable and good looking while standing as well as moving, walking, bending and sitting. Always try garments on and put in the pockets all items you normally carry.

How loosely or tightly a garment fits is a matter of personal preference, but there are some general guidelines for the appearance of a well-fitting garment:

- Allow sufficient ease for comfortable breathing and moving, and avoiding stress on seams or closures. Alterations, if needed, may be made by an experienced tailor.
- Vertical folds may be a sign that the garment is too large.
- Horizontal wrinkles usually indicate a garment is too small.
- Shirt and jacket sleeves should be long enough to cover the wristbone when the arm is bent.
- The length of slacks and trousers will vary with the style of shoe and width of pant leg. Just touching the top of the shoe is usually an attractive length.

### Workmanship

A well-made garment is durable and retains a pleasing appearance after many wearings and cleanings. While higher quality garments usually cost more, price does not always determine quality. It is important to examine clothing before buying to make sure that you know what degree of quality you are receiving for the price you are paying. Look for these general points as you shop to help you determine quality of workmanship:

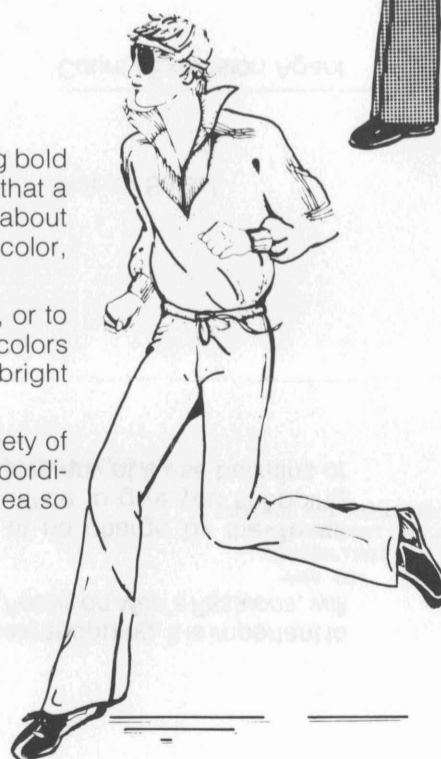
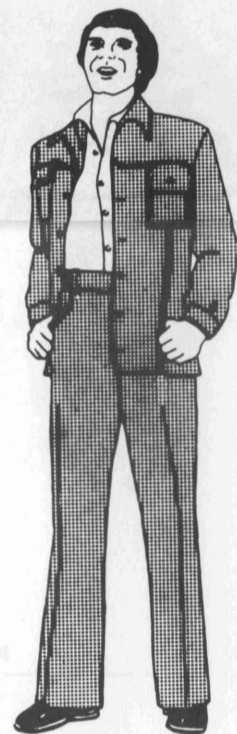
- Patterned fabrics — stripes, checks and plaids — are matched at the seams as well as at flaps, pockets and closings.
- Seams are sewn straight and are wide enough to allow for alterations, if necessary.
- Top-stitching and other decorative trims are even and uniform.
- Points on collars and lapels do not curl up.
- Buttonholes are made with close, even stitches and are reinforced at the ends.
- Inner fabrics provide body but not stiffness.
- Pocket fabric should be of strong, durable, closely woven fabric.

### Getting It All Together

Men's clothing today is exciting and changing. Popular fabrics range from big bold plaids to pastel floral prints to sedate pinstripes. The colors, patterns and styles that a man wears should reflect what he likes and what he wants to communicate about himself. He can discover which ones are best for him by experimenting with color, pattern and style.

Color, pattern, texture and style can be used to add height, weight or both, or to slim the silhouette. Vertical lines and designs, flat smooth textures and muted colors provide an illusion of height and slimness. Horizontal designs, bulky fabrics and bright colors add weight and cut height.

Developing a workable wardrobe can be quite a challenge. To create a variety of different outfits, buy slacks, jackets and shirts that can be worn in different but coordinated combinations. Some suits are sold with two pairs of pants. Expand this idea so that there are several choices to wear with each garment.



Prepared by Extension clothing specialists, The Texas A&M University System.

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