



4-H Clothing Event, Iowa State Fair Checking Out Ready to Wear

Check the Hang Tag (Must have by law.)

- Fabric/ Fiber Content.
- Care Instructions.
- Country in which the garment was constructed.
- Manufacturer Name or ID number.

Check out the Care Tag

- Care tag **MUST** be sewn somewhere in the garment so it can't be removed.
- Does it have to be dry-cleaned? Hand washed? Ironed?

Check for

- Loose threads.
- Is it on grain? (Ever have a t-shirt that "grows" on one side or a pair of pants in which one of the pant legs seems to "twist"? How about a dress, skirt or shirt that "hangs crooked"? It's a grain problem!)
- Seams finished with threads clipped and no broken or skipped.
- Seams should not pucker.
- Zippers sewn straight and glide smoothly.
- Reinforced stress points including pockets.
- Topstitching should be even and without puckers.
- Edges and corners (cuffs, collars, yokes) should be flat without bulk or puckers.
- Buttonholes should be even, without loose or cut threads.
- Hems should be invisible from the right side; not so tight that it puckers; wide enough for alterations if necessary.
- Buttons or other fasteners should be securely attached.
- Extra buttons or beads are included, especially if buttons are unusual.
- Evenly spaced gathers.

Try the Garment On

- Does it fit right? Is it too tight or too loose anywhere?
- Does it pull or wrinkle at the sleeves, chest, hips or waist?
- Is there enough "give" in the fit that you can sit, bend or stretch comfortably?
- Does it pull open or gap at the buttons or zipper?
- Is it the right length at the shoulders, in the waist, in the sleeves and at the hem?
- Are there "folds" in the fit? Horizontal folds often indicate too tight while vertical folds often indicate garment is too large.
- Gapping pockets when wearing can indicate a too tight garment.
- Pleats or vents lie flat without spreading stitches.
- Side seams fall straight and perpendicular to the floor.
- Structural lines (arm hole, shoulder, etc.) are where they should be!
- Check in a mirror to be sure there are no visible undergarment lines.

Think Through the Purpose of Garment or Occasion for Wearing

- Will you be sitting? Try sitting in a chair and getting up! Try sitting in a chair and crossing your legs.
- Will you be dancing? Pretend you are dancing and see how the garment performs. (You can't raise your arms with a portrait neckline!)
- Will you be bending over? If so, try it in front of the mirror.
- Will you be on a stage? A stage and short skirt makes the short skirt even shorter!! Sitting on chairs on a stage can also require practice in front of the mirror!
- You will be seen from the back and sides as well as the front! Be sure to take a look at the back and sides of the garment in the mirror!