



Extension

4-H Sewing Tips

Contributed by leaders who have worked on evaluating garments.

- Preshrink everything, including zippers and seam tape.
- Be sure the pressure foot of the machine and the thread tension are adjusted properly so that the stitching is even and neither too tight nor loose.
- Learn to press correctly. Press each section and seam as garment is put together.
- Darts should be tapered and stitches anchored in some manner so that cloth will not dimple or become unstitched.
- Most seams need some type of finishing, which varies with the kind of material. Double knits do not need any seam finish. Single knits should be sewn according to pattern directions, and require no seam finish.
- The teeth of a zipper should not show regardless of the method chosen (single or double lap) for insertion.
- Arm hole should be double stitched and clipped and trimmed.
- Collar facings should be clipped and under-stitched to prevent rolling.
- Facings should be tacked at seams only.
- Buttons should be sewn on with a shank, not flat to the cloth.
- The width of a hem depends on the style of the skirt. An A-line skirt requires a narrower hem than a straight one, and a circular skirt the narrowest of all.
- Never use a double thread for hemming. A double thread may be used to sew on hooks and eyes and snaps.
- Hemming stitches should show as little as possible, or ideally, not at all on the right side of material.
- Pant legs and fronts of jackets should match in length. If material is a plaid, the plaid also should match.
- Garments should be tried on and fitted during construction. Don't wait until Evaluation Day.
- Bring your garments in clean and well pressed.

