

WARDROBE

MP-140

DOLLARS and SENSE



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Wardrobe Dollars and Sense

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A BEAUTIFUL WARDROBE is within the reach of everyone if purchases are planned carefully. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money for clothing in order to be well dressed. The important thing is to plan well and choose wisely.

Begin planning long before you shop. Each new purchase should be made with the present wardrobe in mind.

Careful planning is the secret to a wardrobe of costumes or outfits (clothes that go well together), instead of a collection of miscellaneous items.

Regardless of how much you want something, ask yourself two questions before you buy it:

"Do I really need it?"

"Can I afford it?"

Dress for the Occasion

Your activities will influence your clothing needs. At least one outfit should be planned for each activity. Of course, some outfits will be suitable for more than one occasion. For example, a church outfit also may be used for informal parties. Clothes for those activities in which you participate most often will be the first consideration and should make up the greater part of your wardrobe.

With a limited budget you will find it safe to buy a coat, hat, shoes and purse the same basic color; dresses and minor ac-

cessories to harmonize. Choose a basic color scheme that will compliment personal coloring and plan clothing outfits or costumes around this color scheme.

Clothes for *church* or *informal parties* should be dressy, but planned as a coordinated costume. An outfit for church should include a purse, hat, gloves and shoes. The same dress or suit with dressier or more elaborate accessories would be appropriate for parties.

For *travel* choose a tailored dress, tailored suit and blouse or a jacket dress. The jacket can be removed for warm temperatures. The color should be dark or medium tone. A basic suit of this type can be dressed up or down, depending on the accessories worn with it.

A tailored suit, dress or separate blouses and skirts are suitable for *casual* and spectator sports wear. The season will determine the fabric. Hats should be simple with little, if any, decoration. Shoes, gloves and purse should be simple in design.

Play clothes should be planned for the active *sport* of your choosing. Choose sport clothes that are flattering yet modest and constructed so that they will give in action. Select fabric with fast colors and of good quality that is easy to clean. Since these articles do not change frequently in style, the first expenditure may be regarded somewhat as an investment.

When selecting *work* clothes, emphasize durability, easy care and comfort of the articles. If the work involves outside jobs, the climate will be an influencing factor. The ideal housedress has complete freedom of action with no pulling or binding of sleeves, shoulder or neck. You'll like pockets that are large and sloping at the top. The housedress should be easy to put on and easy to keep clean. Shoes should be sturdy with closed heels and toes, and above all they should be comfortable.

Rest garments should always be included in the wardrobe plan. A lounging robe or housecoat should be made of fabric which is easily cleaned and should be chosen to suit the season. For *sleeping*, gown or pajamas of soft, washable fabrics should be chosen.

Outfits	What I have	Fabric-color
Church and Informal Parties		
Travel		
Casual		
Play		
Work		
Lounging and Sleeping		
Undergarments		
Miscellaneous		

Good *undergarments* are necessities for health as well as appearance. These garments should be well fitted, of sturdy construction and easily laundered. The appearance of the dress depends largely on the smooth fit of the undergarments worn with it. Dresses or skirts of different lengths require slips of proper length. The lower edge of the slip should be within the hem of the dress. Colors selected may be white or pastel tints to harmonize with your outer garments. Undergarments are also found in dark colors, and for some extra-special occasion or costume you may select a keyed-color undergarment wardrobe.

Your *miscellaneous* items may include raincoat, umbrella and rain boots. Climatic conditions will determine your choice.

Check Clothes on Hand

Look over clothes on hand and list all that are wearable. Use the form on pages 4 and 5. Note colors and conditions of the garments you already have before you spend money on new ones. An out-dated dress may be made over into a smart new jumper. A figured garment you are tired of may be used as bolero and belt with a solid-color dress or jumper. If you sew, Dad's old suit may be made into a neat-looking suit for yourself. The trousers provide material for a four-gore skirt and the coat may be cut down without a great deal of work.

At least twice a year check the clothes you have; include your accessories. Decide which of these you will continue to use and which you will give away. There is no use letting them clutter up your wardrobe. Make necessary alterations of the clothes you keep, bringing them up to date or putting them in first-class condition. This will extend your clothing budget.

To Sew or Not To Sew

Decide what to sew and what to buy readymade. You can have more and better clothes if you sew well. This does not mean, however, making all your clothing. If you are skilled in sewing, you can alter readymade clothes so that they fit better and give garments a new face each season.

Your Share of the Clothing Dollar

From 8 to 11 percent of the total family income should be allowed for clothing. This percentage will vary according to incomes and ways of living.

If the clothing expenditures of the family were itemized, the distribution might be something like this:

	<i>Percent</i>
Mother's share	18-20
Father's share	18-20
Sister's share (1st grade)	10-12
Brother's share (high school).....	20-22
Sister's share (high school).....	22-24

This distribution would vary according to the size of the family and the ages of the group.

Following is a suggested division of the clothing dollar among the types of garments needed:

	<i>Percent</i>
Outer garments	48-54
Undergarments and sleeping garments....	8-13
Hats	5-8
Shoes and hose	18-27
Accessories	3-6
Sport clothes	2-4

Using a Wardrobe Plan

Plan what clothes you need to supplement those you have, remembering your activities. There are two ways to plan your wardrobe and to keep it wearable from year to year. First: Choose a basic dress or suit and coat — using accessories for interest and color. Second: Choose a basic set of accessories — with dresses and/or suits and coats to express mood or personality.

If you follow the first plan you may be able to buy one basic costume for each season, but you will have carryovers to

fill out your wardrobe. Your accessories will need to be numerous enough to change the accent of your basic costume.

If you follow the second plan of wearing basic accessories you may buy only one good set each season, but you will have several costumes with which to wear them.

Use the suggested form on pages 4 and 5 in planning the wardrobe. The principles in this publication apply to each family member. Let that member help with his or her plan. This will encourage each member to plan the purchases and care for individual clothing more thoroughly.