



# What's the Quality of your Clothes??

By: Sue Byrd, Professor Fashion Merchandising,  
University of Tennessee at Martin

Goals:

-To learn the characteristics of quality in ready-made garments.

-To develop skills in analyzing garment quality.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR CLOTHES ARE MADE AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN QUALITY FASHIONS!!

Skills:

Decision Making



Intermediate Level

Do you want to get the most for what you spend on your clothing?


Do you want your clothes to last longer?

Do you ever "inspect" your clothes before you buy them to see if they are well made?

Well-made clothing will last longer and look great after continuous wear!!!

Use the following tool to check your clothing purchases.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a shirt you have in your closet that buttons up the front, has sleeves and a collar. Examine your shirt and rate it on the following criteria.

CHARACTERISTICS:	SIGNS OF QUALITY 	RATING Circle your findings 1= POORLY MADE 5= SUPERB
1. SEAMS	Are the stitches small (about 12 per inch), making the seams secure and sturdy?	1 2 3 4 5
2. HEM	Does the hem have a neat appearance? If stitched on the right side of the garment, are stitches straight?	1 2 3 4 5
3. COLLAR	Are collar points uniform (even)? Is there interfacing (added thickness) in the collar so that the collar has stiffness in order for it to lay flat and have body?	1 2 3 4 5
4. BUTTONS	Are buttons sewn on securely with no hanging threads and enough thread loops that the button will not fall off? Is there equal distance between buttons?	1 2 3 4 5
5. BUTTONHOLES	Are the buttonholes well-made with thread completely covering the edges of the buttonholes?	1 2 3 4 5
6. REINFORCEMENT IN FRONT OF GARMENT	Is there interfacing (added thickness) down the front of your garment where the buttons and buttonholes are located?	1 2 3 4 5
7. SLEEVES	Are the seams that connect the sleeve to the shirt smooth with no gathers or puckers?	1 2 3 4 5
8. FABRIC	Is the fabric closely woven so you can't see through it when held up to the light?	1 2 3 4 5
9. FABRIC DESIGN	If fabric has a pattern or plaid, does the design match at the seams?	1 2 3 4 5
10. POCKET	If there is a patch pocket, does it lay flat with straight and even topstitching and reinforced top corners?	1 2 3 4 5
OVERALL EVALUATION	How would you rate the overall quality of your shirt?	1 2 3 4 5

IF your "OVERALL EVALUATION" was 4 or 5, congratulations, you have a well-made shirt that will last. If your overall evaluation was 1 or 2, your shirt may not last very long. You may want to use this tool when buying another garment.