

KC NEWS

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Fun Fact

Have you ever tried to use dishtowels that don't soak up water? They're probably made from 100% polyester or a blend of polyester and cotton. Polyester is what you call hydrophobic (hates water) whereas cotton will soak up water completely because it is hydrophilic (loves water). When you mix/blend these fabrics they don't know how to act with one another causing shrinkage, pilling and malformation.



Questions?

Do you have questions about consignment or estate sales? Join us on social media (@kcbtf) and tell us what you'd like to know. We love hearing from you!



Not So Fast

With the massive increase in production of fast fashions, not all clothing is made to last. Fast fashions are low priced items made by mass retailers out of cheap fabrics at a rapid pace. It isn't just about how quickly the clothing is manufactured but also how fast it moves from runway to store to consumer, to the garbage.

We want to buy better clothes that last longer, but many of us just don't know what we're looking for. Here are questions to help you when shopping for your next great item:

What is it made of?

A garment's fabric content matters. Look for the garment tag (the one people cut out because it's itchy), usually on the inside right seam. The tag explains the care instructions, fabric content, and where it was made. What you want to see is natural fibers like cotton, silk, and wool. Unfortunately, synthetic fibers spun from plastics and petrochemicals - polyester, acrylic, rayon and viscose - make up a large portion of our wardrobes today. Most of us prefer the natural fibers, and they tend to hold up better



Linen

Linen is a textile made from the fibers of the flax plant. Linen is laborious to manufacture, but the fiber is very strong, absorbent and dries faster than cotton. Garments made of linen are valued for their exceptional coolness and freshness in hot and humid weather. Linen is one of the most biodegradable and stylish fabrics in fashion history. It is strong, naturally moth resistant, and made from flax plant fibres, so when untreated (i.e. not dyed) it is fully biodegradable.



Book now

We are now booking for fall and winter items - give us a call at 519-652-0655.

We take Christmas items in November so start looking through your items now.



compared to manmade ones as long as you treat them with care. Pieces made from just one fiber ("whole fabric garments") such as 100% cotton will also hold up better when laundering than blended fabric garments (e.g., 50% cotton, 50% polyester). This is due to fabrics having different properties, so when you throw a blended fabric garment into the dryer the two materials shrink at different rates, slightly changing the shape and fit of the garment.

How does it feel?

Does it feel thin and brittle or does it feel soft and dense? The more fiber there is, and the better structured and woven your garment is, the better it is going to wear with time. A fabric doesn't need to be heavy to be good. Ideally, yarns are tightly packed but thin, so the fabric is still lightweight but dense.

What does it cost? Be careful here!

As a consumer, you must note that while a very cheap item is going to be very low-quality, a high price tag doesn't always mean it's a good quality item. A shirt may have a \$250 price tag on it, and it may look and feel like 100% silk, but only the garment tag will tell you for sure. It is increasingly popular for manufacturers to mix their fabrics to keep costs down and profits up. With new technologies, it's easier to make fabrics from low grade materials (polyester, polyamide, polyurethane) seem like silk and cotton. Don't let manufacturers get away with blending expensive natural fabrics and fooling you with a high price tag.

What's your goal?

Will this be something you hand down to someone? Will you sell it in the future and see a return on it? Understanding care and quality of a garment can make it last that much longer and taking that extra two minutes the next time you are shopping to feel and look if your fabrics are blended, natural or cheap could end up saving you money down the line, and saving the landfill too.

Timeline Of Fabrics

- 1794 - First Cotton Patent
- 1895 - First artificial manufactured bamboo fiber, developed as a cheap alternative for silk (viscose/rayon)
- 1936 - Nylon introduced
- 1941 - Polyester cloth invented
- 1959 - Spandex invented
- 1968 - Man-made fibers top natural fibers in clothing sales