

Clothing & Textiles: Sweatshirt Guidelines
Family Consumer Judging Contest 2007
Beginners, Juniors, Seniors

Find good quality.

A high price does not guarantee good quality clothes. Quality clothing, however, will usually perform better and last longer than clothing of poorer quality. Good quality is the result of appropriate design and fabric selection, as well as, good construction. Here are some things to look for in quality clothing items:

- Labels telling fiber content and recommended care
- Information about finishes, i.e., soil release, wrinkle resistance, and shrinkage control
- Fabrics that do not tend to ravel and knits that do not run
- Appropriate seam finishes for fabrics that ravel
- Firm, balanced, and even stitching
- Seams that can stretch with the fabric
- Trims that do not make the garment go out of style quickly or limit care
- Non-puckered, smooth-gliding zippers
- Comfortable, neat fit

Fabric type and weight.

The variety of sweatshirt weights and fabric choices has grown dramatically over the past few years. The basic fabric is 50% cotton/50% polyester. But there are garments available in 90%/10%; 80%/20%; and 95%/5% blend combinations.

- Mid-weight fabric ranges between 7.5 and 8 ounces per square yard in a 50% cotton/50% polyester blend.
- Heavyweight is between 9 and 10 ounces.
- Ultra Heavyweights weigh in at 11 to 12 ounces.

Most sweatshirts and fleece garments can be utilized for both screen printed designs and embroidery.

Seam Quality:

- Non-bulky and free of puckers
- Reinforced seams for high stress areas or stretch
- Curves are smooth & points are sharp
- Seams and edge treatments appropriate for fabric, use and price line

Stitch Quality:

- Stitch type appropriate for fabric and use
- Stitches resist unraveling
- Flat and non-bulky
- Balanced stitch tension
- Long threads trimmed and removed

Binding Quality (neckline and cuffs):

- Width of binding even
- Securely applied
- Suitable in weight, fiber-content, and care method
- Raw edges concealed

Caution:

To prevent strangulation, consumers should remove the drawstrings from the sweatshirts.

Resources:

Planning Your Family's Clothing Needs, Mississippi State University Extension Service

Ready-to-Wear Apparel Analysis, Second Edition by Patty Brown & Janet Rice

Evaluating Apparel Quality, Second Edition by Anita A. Stamper, Sue Humphries Sharp & Linda B. Donnell

Nancy Pauly, Alice Nickelson/April 2007

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