

Clothing Life Expectancy

Nothing lasts forever, including your clothes, but how long should you expect a garment to last?

According to the [International Fair Claims Guide for Consumers Textiles Products](#), assuming normal wear, you can expect most of your clothes to last somewhere between two and three years. Here is a list of garments and their life expectancy (in Years).

1. Bathing Suit	2
2. Blouses, (Dress and Sports)	
white cotton	3
coloured, cotton, silk & synthetic	2
3. Choir & Religious Robe	5
4. Coats, Jackets and Blazers	
cloth (dress and sport)	4
pile	3
fur (imitation)	3
leather and suede	5
imitation suede	3
wool	4
cotton and blends	3
plastics	2
flocked or coated	2
5. Denim	
jackets	3
jeans or skirts	2
bleached or stonewashed	3
6. Dresses	
casuals	1
fancy	2
evening	3
high fashion	2
imitation suede	3

7. Dressing Gowns	
wool	3
lightweight	1
quilted and heavy	3
silk	2
other	2
8. Formal Wear	5
9. Gloves	
fabric	1
leather	3
10. Hats	
felt and straw	2
fur	5
fabric	2
11. Jumpers and cardigans	
wool	4
wool blends	3
synthetics	3
12. Neckties	1
13. Plastics Apparel	2
14. Rainwear and Windbreakers (Anoraks)	
film and plastics coated	2
fabric	3
rubber (wash only) and plastic	3
15. Scarves	2
16. Shirts	
plain	2
wool or silk	2
casual cotton blend	3
other	2
17. Ski Jackets	
fabric	3
quilted	2
rubber and plastic	2
18. Skirts	
wool	4
cotton	2
leather	5
other	2
19. Suits	
summer weight	3
wool or wool blends	3
cotton and synthetic	2
winter weight wool	4
wash suits	2
imitation suede	2

20. Trousers, Slacks & Shorts	
wool or wool blends	4
cotton blends	2
21. Underwear	
socks	1
foundation garments	1
underpants	1
lingerie	2
22. Vests	2
23. Windjackets (see #14)	
24. Work Uniforms	1

CHILDREN'S WEAR

1. Coats & baby sets	2
2. Dresses	2
3. Suits	2
4. Playclothes	1

LEATHER, SUEDE AND FUR

1. Coats	
fur	10
leather	5
suede	4
2. Dresses	
leather	4
suede	3

3. Fur Hats	5
4. Gloves	
leather	3
suede	2
fur	4
5. Skirts	
leather	5
suede	4
6. Trousers, Slacks & Shorts	
leather	5
suede	3
fur	5
7. Vests	5

HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS

1. Bedspreads	3
2. Blankets	
heavy wool	10
lightweight	5
electric	5
synthetic	5
cotton	3
3. Curtains and Draperies	
sheer	3
glass fibre	4
lined or coated	5
unlined	4
4. Eiderdowns & Continental Quilts	5
5. Sheets and Pillow Cases	2
6. Slipcovers	3
7. Table Linen	
linen	5
cotton blend	3
others	2
8. Towels	2
9. Upholstery fabrics	
woollen lounge covers	5
fabric	5
vinyl	2
leather	10
10. Woollen Underlays	5

The Guide was developed by consensus, similar to the process used by formal standards-making bodies. Participating were: Drycleaning Institute of Australia Ltd, Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs, International Fabricare Institute, Neighbourhood Cleaners Association, Guild of Cleaners & Launderers, School of Textiles, Private and Government Consumer organisations. The guide is based on the work of Norman Oehlke and Sheila Garred of International Fabricare Institute Consumer Relations. In 1988 it was approved as an American National Standard. It has been up-dated to include articles that are more appropriately Australasian.

The Guide's criteria on textile performance questions has achieved international acceptance. To ensure its continued success critical review is invited.

Drycleaning Institute of Australia Ltd