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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garment Type</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bathing Suit</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blouses, (Dress and Sports)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white cotton</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coloured, cotton, silk &amp; synthetic</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir &amp; Religious Robe</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coats, Jackets and Blazers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cloth (dress and sport)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pile</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fur (imitation)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leather and suede</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imitation suede</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wool</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cotton and blends</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plastics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flocked or coated</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denim</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jackets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jeans or skirts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bleached or stonewashed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dresses</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>casuals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fancy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evening</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high fashion</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imitation suede</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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