

Skills for Living

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Topic 22-4

Extending the Life of Clothes

- In this topic, you will learn about extending the life of your clothes by
 - ❖ **Repairing clothes**
 - ❖ **Altering clothes**
 - ❖ **Restyling clothes**
 - ❖ **Recycling clothes**

Extending the Life of Clothes

Objectives for Topic 22-4

After studying this topic, you will be able to

- describe common repairs clothes may need
- alter the seams and hems of clothes
- suggest ways to restyle clothes
- identify ways to recycle clothes you can no longer wear

Topic 22-4 Term

❖ restyle

Repairing Clothes

- Repairing clothes means restoring something to its original condition
 - ❖ Repair split seams
 - ❖ Secure loose buttons
 - ❖ Replace broken zippers
 - ❖ Stitch loose hems
 - ❖ Smooth snagged areas
 - ❖ Patch holes

Altering Clothes

- Altering clothes means changing the size of the garment
- Alter the seams if the garment is
 - ❖ too large
 - ❖ too small
- Alter the hems if the garment is
 - ❖ too long
 - ❖ too short

Altering Seams

- To make a garment smaller
 - ❖ Put the garment on inside out
 - ❖ Ask someone to pin new seams to the snugness you want
 - ❖ Take the garment off and baste along pinned lines
 - ❖ Try the garment on again to ensure fit
 - ❖ Stitch with a regular machine stitch

Altering Seams

- To make a garment larger
 - ❖ Determine how much wider the garment should be
 - ❖ Measure the seam allowance to see how much the seams can be let out
 - ❖ If there is enough space, begin altering



Altering Hems

- Remove old hem and press out crease
 - ❖ If you are adding length, first make sure the existing hem is deep enough to add the desired amount
- Try garment on and have someone mark desired length
- Turn hem under and pin in place
- Try on garment to check new length
- Complete stitching of hem

Did You Know...

- If removing the hem does not lengthen the garment enough, consider adding a flattering border in fabric of the same weight and fiber content
 - ❖ Look to current fashion trends to determine what types of border to consider

Restyling Clothes

- *Restyling* clothes means changing a garment to create a different look
 - ❖ Cover worn elbows with patches
 - ❖ Remove cuffs
 - ❖ Add decorative trims
 - ❖ Dye the garment
 - ❖ Change buttons

Recycling Clothes

- Recycling clothes means reusing garments in different ways
 - ❖ Give wearable clothes to someone
 - ❖ Have a garage sale
 - ❖ Take garments to a consignment shop
 - ❖ Donate items to charitable organizations
 - ❖ Reuse portions to make new items

Summary for Topic 22-4

- You can save a lot of money repairing, altering, or restyling clothes you no longer wear
- If a garment does not fit properly, you may be able to alter the seams or hem
- If you can no longer wear a garment, it can be recycled or given to others to wear
- Think about your options before you throw old clothes into the trash