

Clothing Guidelines-Children

Infants

- both boys and girls wore dresses from infancy through toddler-hood, the the only defining characteristic being the hairstyle; girls wore their hair parted down the center, and boys parted theirs on the side
- Dress
 - cotton, wool, or silk
 - long or short sleeves, high neck or low neck
 - fastens in the back with buttons, hooks and eyes, or ties at waist and neck
 - during infancy skirts extend past the feet, dresses are shortened when baby begins crawling, during toddlerhood skirts come to or just below the knees
 - prints, plaids, stripes, and plain white
 - all colors available, no gender-specific shades, white popular during first infancy as it boils clean without fading
- Undergarments
 - chemise of white cotton or linen
 - stays: vest-like garment that buttoned up the front, provided warmth, petticoats could button on at waist for support, made of a sturdy cotton, duck, or canvas
 - drawers: made of white cotton, comes to just below the knee, provides warmth, covers modern diapers
 - petticoats: white cotton, slightly shorter than the dress skirt, provides warmth, protects dress from messes
- Accessories
 - Footwear
 - stockings: wool or cotton, white, natural, comes over the knees
 - shoes: leather or canvas, lace-up or maryjane-style
 - Headwear
 - cloth caps in white cotton or linen, fasten with a tie at the neck
 - quilted or knit wool hoods

- sun bonnets: corded or slats, from cotton, in prints, plaids, stripes

Girls

- Dress
 - cotton, wool, or silk
 - long or short sleeves, high neck or low neck
 - fastens in the back with buttons, hooks and eyes, or ties at waist and neck
 - skirts get progressively longer as girls get older, beginning at or just below the knees as toddlers and moving to within a handspan of the ankle during their teen years, after they reach their majority (age 18) the skirts will drop to ankle length
 - prints, plaids, stripes, and plain white
 - all colors available, no gender-specific shades
- Undergarments
 - chemise of white cotton or linen
 - stays: vest-like garment that buttoned up the front, provided warmth, petticoats could button on at waist for support, made of a sturdy cotton, duck, or canvas, transitions to a more corset-like garment as figure matures
 - drawers: made of white cotton, comes to just below the knee, may be split for convenience or closed crotch and fastening over the hips with buttons
 - petticoats: white cotton, slightly shorter than the dress skirt, provides loft
- Accessories
 - Footwear
 - Stockings
 - wool or cotton, between knee and thigh high, white, black, brown, blue, grey
 - Boots and Shoes
 - front-lacing, side-lacing, or with elastic gussets on the sides, low heel (1-2"), leather soles, or unobtrusive rubber soles, avoid heavy treads
 - speed laces can be converted to eyelets at most shoe repair stores
- Headwear
 - silk or straw bonnets

- corded or slat sunbonnets with a curtain that touches or overs the shoulders
- Eyewear
 - glasses- wire-rimmed, round, square, or oval
 - contacts
- Aprons
 - half apron, or pinner apron
 - cotton, linen, or wool
 - stripes, checks, solids (wool)
- Cold Weather Wear
 - shawls- wool, 60x60"
 - sontags- wool, knitted or crochet
 - paletots- wool, loose or semi-fitted
 - petticoats- wool (white or red), or quilted (cotton or wool)

Boys

- Once boys are breeched, or put into trousers, generally between 2 and 5, they are dressed nearly identically to their fathers.

Trousers

- Should be worn at the natural waist, with suspenders, should have button-fly, may have a buckle at the back for adjusting fit
- Wool
 - Most common material for men's trousers, should be light or medium weight, not coating or melton
 - plain, plaid, or striped
 - black, navy, grey, brown are all common colors
- Linen
 - popular for summer wear
 - shades of tan predominate, natural, brown, and blue were also popular

Shirts

- Should have a front placket, may have an attached collar or a band collar with separating collar
- Contrary to popular belief, shirts are not considered underwear by the mid-19th century and it is not unusual to find images of men in working scenarios in only trousers and shirtsleeves, much of the confusion seems to emanate from military regulations that require soldiers to wear coat and/or vest at all times. This stipulation does not affect civilians, although it was considered appropriate to don a vest and coat during more formal activities.
- Cotton
 - plain white cotton shirts predominate at every socio-economic level
 - small prints in variety of colors were also popular, most common was a black or brown print on white, some printed shirts had a white plain or pleated bosom added
- Linen
 - white linen with pleated or plain bosom popular for formal occasions
- Wool
 - popular for undershirts and over-shirts, mostly seen in white, naturals, and reds

Vests

- A variety of styles were popular during the mid-19th century; shawl-collars, double-breasted, high-neck, low-neck, and those with lapels.
- an adjustable belt on the back was common, and most vests are cut smooth across the bottom, collars generally continue around the back of the neck and do not terminate at the shoulder seam
- made from wool, linen, or silk
- prints, plaids and stripes were all popular
- may match either the coat, the trousers, both, or neither

Coats

- There are a variety of coat styles available to men of the mid-19th century; sack coats, frock coats, and palettes are the most common.
- Wool

- wool is the most common fabric used for men's coats
- plain, plaids, and stripes
- dark colors predominate
- Linen
 - linen is popular for summer wear
 - shades of tan predominate, natural, brown, and blue were also popular

Undergarments

- drawers are optional, but recommended
 - made from white cotton, linen, canton flannel (twilled flannel), or white or red wool flannel
 - constructed similarly to trousers, they generally extend to the ankle and protect the trousers from wear and body oils
- undershirts are optional
 - made from canton flannel (twilled flannel), or wool flannel
 - white or red in color

Footwear

- Socks
 - knit from wool
 - popular colors include natural, white, grey, brown, black, red, and blue
- Boots and Shoes
 - front-lacing, or with elastic gussets on the sides
 - low heel (1-2")
 - leather soles, or unobtrusive rubber soles, avoid heavy treads
 - speed laces can be converted to eyelets at most shoe repair stores
 - Accessories
 - Headwear
 - straw or felted wool hats in a variety of shapes and sizes, study original images for specific style ideas
 - Eyewear
 - glasses, wire-rimmed, round, square, oval

- contacts are also acceptable