

Clothing -Men

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
- * for your safety, always follow the advice of your medical provider, use medical devices and protective gear, and take medications as prescribed