

4-H Quality Construction Checklist

The following standards are commonly found in garments of quality construction.

Appearance, Overall

- ___ Notions compatible in color, fiber, weight, and design.
- ___ Fabric used correctly, plaids, stripes, checks, or other designs attractively planned for matching.
- ___ Fabric nap correctly used.
- ___ Pressed to give smooth look to finished garment.
- ___ Loose ravelings, basting threads, and thread ends removed.

Belts

- ___ Style of belt suitable to garment design, uniform width.
- ___ Ends well finished.
- ___ Closure appropriate.
- ___ Durable and attractive.

Buttons

- ___ Neatly and securely fastened.
- ___ Appropriate in size and design.
- ___ Placement accurate and attractive, uniform distance from edge and in spacing between.
- ___ Appropriate shank provided.
- ___ Stitching started and ended under button.

Buttonholes

- ___ Flat and securely stitched.
- ___ Even in width and length.
- ___ Placed at points of strain.
- ___ Attractive and accurate in distance from edge & in spacing between.
- ___ Cut on grain.
- ___ Appropriate in size.
- ___ Appropriate interfacing used.

For fabric (bound) buttonholes

- ___ Lips an attractive size and even in width.
- ___ Lips meet exactly at the center of the hole.
- ___ Corners square.
- ___ Facing securely and appropriately fastened to the back of the buttonhole.

Buttonholes (continued)

For machine-made buttonholes

- ___ The stitches evenly spaced and smooth in appearance on front and back of buttonhole.
- ___ Center cut neatly with all loose threads trimmed off.
- ___ Interfacing an appropriate color.

Collars

- ___ Free from bulky seams graded, clipped, or notched.
- ___ Understitching holds undercollar in place so it does not show.
- ___ Appropriate interfacing used.
- ___ Shape symmetrical on right and left.
- ___ Curved edges smooth, points sharp and flat.
- ___ Rolls smoothly or lays flat according to design.

Cuffs

- ___ Flat, smooth, free from bulky seams graded and understitched where applicable.
- ___ Even in width.
- ___ Undercuff does not show.
- ___ Appropriately interfaced.

Darts

- ___ Tapered and smooth, free from pucker or bubble at point.
- ___ Securely fastened at ends.
- ___ Symmetrical in shape, length, and spacing.
- ___ Attractive placement.
- ___ Pressed correctly, vertical darts pressed toward center, horizontal darts pressed down.

Facings

- ___ Flat, smooth, free from bulk.
- ___ Seams graded, clipped or notched, and understitched as needed.
- ___ Securely tacked in place at seams, darts, and openings.
- ___ Facing edges free from raveling.
- ___ Any edge finish flat, smooth, & free from bulk.

Fit

- Adequate ease for comfort.
- Fitting details (neckline, armhole, waistline) properly located on body.
- Silhouette lines follow silhouette of body.
- Lengthwise grainline perpendicular to floor; crosswise grainline parallel to floor.
- Darts point to and stop short of the fullest part of the area they fit.
- Free from strain and/or excess fullness.

Gathers

- Uniform, evenly distributed. Stitched so pleats are not formed.
- Adequately full, do not look skimpy or bulky.

Hems

- Flat and inconspicuous, unless meant to be decorative.
- Seams pressed as required and graded to reduce bulk.
- Hem fold pressed so hem hangs smoothly at lower edge.
- Hem edge smooth, flat, and free from ravellings.
- Excess fullness evenly eased, free from pleats.
- Seams aligned.
- Hem edge finish should not create ridge or add bulk.
- Hem even in width.
- Width appropriate for garment style and fabric type.
- Topstitching attractive in size & placement, straight.
- Hand stitches uniform, secure, & inconspicuous.
- Fused hems securely fused & flat.
- Hem hangs parallel to floor.
- Length attractive for wearer & appropriate for garment.

Interfacing

- Enhances body & wear of garment.
- Color & care requirements compatible to outer fabric.
- Free from bulk & ravellings.
- Not visible on inside or outside of garment.

Lining

- Conceals inner construction of garment without adding excess bulk.
- Color & care requirements compatible with outer fabric.
- Fits smoothly inside garment with seams aligned.
- If attached at hems, has pleat for ease.
- If free hanging, attached at seams with French tacks.
- Hemmed shorter than garment, 1/2 inch shorter than sleeves & 1 inch shorter than skirt or pants.

Neckline

- Free from bulk.
- Facings flat & inconspicuously graded, clipped, & understitched.
- Design symmetrical.

Needlework (hand stitching)

- Uniform stitches, secure, inconspicuous.
- Correct technique used on stitch with single thread.
- No bulky knots at thread ends.
- Correct stitch used for purpose.

Placket

- Flat, free from excess bulk.
- Inconspicuous unless meant to be decorative.
- Correct technique used for purpose, faced, bound, hemmed.

Pleats, tucks

- Uniform in width (unless design varies).
- On straight grain of fabric when design allows.
- Neatly pressed as required.
- Stitching straight.
- Spacing attractive & accurate.

Pockets

- Flat, smooth, free from bulk.
- Stitching straight.
- Pressed neatly.

For Patch pockets

- Upper corners reinforced.
- Square corners mitered; round corners symmetrical.
- Hem appropriate width & neatly finished.
- Attractive placement.
- If in pairs, coordinated in size, shape, & fabric design (if applicable).

Pockets (continued)

In-seam pockets

- Interfaced, understitched, lay flat when worn.
- Inconspicuous unless meant to be decorative

Pressing

- Garment smooth & free from wrinkles.
- Free from sheen & scorch.
- No ridges from seams or facings.
- Seams pressed flat & inconspicuous.
- Darts pressed to shape garment.
- Pleats, tucks, creases pressed as design requires.

Seams

- Securely stitched, straight, flat, free from bulk.
- Stitches appropriate in size & tension.
- Fullness eased as required.
- Crossed seams intersect correctly.
- Pressed in correct direction.
- Graded or trimmed & understitched where appropriate.
- Fabric design matched as possible.
- If finish used, no added bulk or tension.
- Construction notches trimmed off after seams are sewn.
- Free from ravelling.

Sleeves

Set-in sleeves

- Fullness evenly distributed.
- Seam smooth & even in width around cap.
- Underarm section of seam trimmed & double stitched.
- Seam pressed toward sleeve cap.
- Free from ravelling.

Kimono or raglan sleeves

- Seams pressed open
- Clipped & reinforced as needed.

Snaps, hooks & eyes, & other fasteners

- Applied with small, neat stitches that do not show on right side.
- Reinforced with interfacing.
- Placed at least 1/8 inch from garment edges.
- Inconspicuous from right side of garment.
- Garment lays flat when fastened.

Stitching

- Stitch length & tension appropriate for fabric.
- Straight, free from tangles, knots, & skipped stitches.
- Beginning & ending of stitching locked in appropriate way.
- Loose threads cut off.

Topstitching

- Straight.
- Attractive in placement.
- Stitch length & tension appropriate for design & fabric.

Understitching

- Even distance from seam & inconspicuous.
- Holds seam against facing, under collar, or cuff without wrinkles.
- Prevents facing, undercollar, or cuff from rolling to right side of garment.

Waistband

- Smooth, even width.
- Free from bulk.
- On grain.
- Interfaced.
- Stitching straight.
- Corners square.
- Unless band is a design feature, the overlap is even w/ placket & a 1 inch extension is on the underlap of band.
- Skirt or pants eased to fit band.
- Sets exactly at top of zipper.

Waistline Seam

- Inconspicuous, smooth, & flat.
- Seams & darts match if appropriate.
- Secured by waistline stay to prevent stretching.

Zipper

- Placket smooth, flat, & free from puckering.
- Stitching straight & even.
- Placket appropriate length & width.
- Seams & neckline edges match.
- Zipper completely covered.
- Zipper slides easily.
- Inconspicuous unless meant to be a design feature.
- Skirt & zippers end at band.
- Neckline zippers end 1/2 inch from neckline so fastener can be attached above zipper