

Get Fit

well-dressed means more than just great clothing

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Mark Twain once said, "Clothes make the man." Should you choose to follow this bit of sartorial advice, be aware that Twain left out a key adjective concerning those particular clothes making his man. 'Properly-fitted' should have opened his statement, and for its lack, that phrase will forever be only half true.

You see, in order for clothing to have any real influence on a man's appearance, it must fit its wearer in a manner consistent with the fashion of the day. In today's world, that fit is one of closeness to the body while still allowing freedom of movement. Think back to the early 1960s and the days of John F. Kennedy for quick reference. Suits were narrow in the shoulder, trousers pleat less and neckties proportionately slim.

In stark contrast to the oversized silhouette worn by a Giorgio Armani-clad Richard Gere in the iconic 1980 movie *American Gigolo*, today's clothing follows the contours of a man's body. Gone are the padded shoulders and too-long jackets, baggy pleated trousers hanging to the floor and pint-sized knots on ties. Oh, you can still spot men wearing 'too-large' clothing at the office or on the street, but these gents look completely out of place in today's world, not to mention appearing years older than their true age.

There are several rules governing the current fit of a man's jacket, most noteworthy being the length of the coat sleeves, the coat's shape at the waistline, its contour at the chest and overall coat length. Flat front trousers (sans pleats) are the modern norm, typically featuring a shorter rise and slimmer legs, worn cuff less and draping just to the shoe tops.

Clothing and shoes available at Taylor Richards & Conger

JACKETS

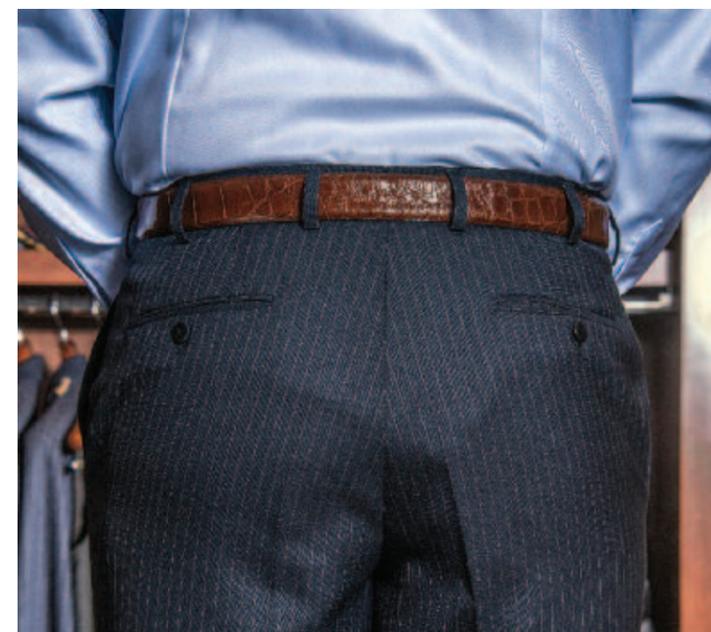
- waist suppression nipped at waist but not pulling
- sleeves approximately 4" to 4.25" above thumb tip
- no 'collar roll' across the jacket shoulders
- armholes close to the body
- coat length just covering the seat

TROUSERS

- plain front (no pleats) fitting smoothly in front
- lower rise in front, slightly higher in back
- slimmer fit in hips, eliminating bagginess at sides
- finished with no cuffs, just grazing shoe tops

SHIRTS

- sleeves stop where hand and wrist meet
- shirt body comfortably fitted at waist
- collar size should allow for one finger easily inserted at the neck



**Properly-fitted clothes
make the man.**

A few final points should be addressed regarding the overall fit of a man's clothing. The dress shirt collar should be comfortably snug around the neck, with its height appropriately high enough when buttoned to cause the tie to 'stand up' and slightly away from the chest. The collar points should be spread in such a way as to just graze the coat lapels, creating a harmonious flow from shirt to jacket.

The tie you select should take aspects of your shirt and suit and be the bridge that joins them in regards to color and texture. The knot should be proportionate to the spread of your shirt collar, locking a dimple in place just below it. The proper tie width is in keeping with your coat lapel and shoulder width; narrower lapels and shoulders call for narrower neckties.

A man dressed in a jacket, whether it's part of a suit or a more casual sports jacket, is making a statement. He stands out in a crowd, and it's important that his clothing fits properly. The modern jacket fits close to the body and is appropriately narrow in the shoulders as to follow the natural outline of his body. It emphasizes a man's fuller chest and slim waist, and when correctly fitted, enhances his overall appearance.

A well-dressed man should be confident, Mark Twain's statement to the contrary, that his clothes are really only icing on the proverbial cake and are worn in a manner that allows his true spirit to be realized.

Special thanks to our clothing model Paul Kenna of Taylor Richards & Conger.

All clothing and shoes are available at Taylor Richards & Conger, located at 6907 Phillips Place Court in South Park. Visit www.trcstyle.com or call 704.366.9092. Follow on Instagram @trcstyle.



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