

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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SEWING TO EXTEND YOUR INCOME

What do you get out of sewing? Obviously, the end result is the garment, home accessory, or craft you create. There are other benefits too!! Sewing fulfills some of the varied needs and outlets that men and women often seek. It satisfies creative urges, is a personal expression of a talent, is fun and smart to do, is a skill that can be passed on to others, and it can provide a high quality, unique wardrobe.

What is the dollar value of the items produced? Does sewing extend your income? If the sewn product is used and enjoyed, the likely answer is YES. To figure whether or not the income is extended, use the following formula:

Retail price of a comparable Ready-to-Wear Garment	<u>LESS</u>	Cost of materials only for handmade garment	=	Dollar amount of income extended
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EXAMPLES

<u>New</u> Black &		Fabric 3 yds. @ \$15.00		\$75.00
<u>Garment</u> White		Pattern \$ 2.50		- \$28.90
Print		Thread \$.80		\$46.10
Dress	<u>LESS</u>	Elastic \$ 1.10		Amount of
Black Belt		Black Belt \$ 8.00		Income
<u>Cost:</u> \$75.00		Tax \$ 1.50		Extended
		<u>Cost:</u> \$28.90		

<u>Recycled</u> Jacket		Out of Fashion		\$90.00
<u>Garment</u> Wool Tweed		Jacket -		\$ 2.40
		Lapels too wide \$ 0.00	=	\$87.60
	<u>LESS</u>	Thread \$.80		Amount of
		Buttons \$ 1.50		Income
<u>Cost:</u> \$90.00		Tax \$.10		Extended
		<u>Cost:</u> \$ 2.40		

<u>New</u> Child's		Fabric		\$10.00
<u>Garment</u> Summer		Thread \$.80		- \$ 7.69
Pajamas	<u>LESS</u>	Buttons \$.60		\$ 2.31
		Elastic \$ 1.00		Amount of
		Pattern \$ 2.00		Income
<u>Cost:</u> \$10.00		Tax \$.29		Extended
		<u>Cost:</u> \$ 7.69		

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Have you been underpricing your sewing efforts? Why don't you, for a month or possibly a year, use the formula to figure whether or not the income is extended when items are sewn at home. There are many ways to extend the income - idle garments are made wearable, the cost of supplies needed to make a garment comparable to a ready-made one are less than the retail price of the garment. Keep a running record for all items sewn and see what the total income extension will be on a yearly basis.

WORK SHEET

<i>Description and Price of Comparable Ready-to-Wear Garment</i>	LESS	<i>Material and Cost for Handmade Garment</i>	=	<i>Dollar Amount of Extended Income</i>

Extension Publication 346-318 "To Sew or Not to Sew" is available from your Extension Agent and can help you decide if it pays for you to sew.

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