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TIPS FOR CUTTING THE COST OF CLOTHING

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One dozen tips for meeting clothing preferences and sharpening shopping practices are as follows:

1. Coordinate new clothes with your existing wardrobe.
2. Sharp shopping involves having an eye for quality and bargains and vigilance about getting what you pay for.
3. The Golden Rule of fashion on a budget is simple: Put your money where it shows.
4. The trick to all sale shopping is to have the vital ability to recognize good quality and to plan ahead so that clothing dollars will be available when a sale is announced.
5. Haunt the outlets - prices are rock bottom. If you are not familiar with an area, buy a local outlet shopping guide.
6. Look into clothing seconds. If the flaw you find can be easily disguised or mended, you may have a "steal."
7. Trade clothes with a friend or relative who shares your taste and size. The most costly clothing in anyone's closet is apparel that is not worn.
8. Buy clothes for women in the men's department - prices are often less than in the women's department.
9. When trying to decide if you can afford a garment, divide the cost by the estimated number of times it is to be worn.
10. Place emphasis on the total use cost of goods and services, rather than the initial cost. Clothing continues to cost when we have it dry cleaned, launder it, or give it touch-up pressing or other maintenance attention.
11. Learning to make your own clothing may be your answer to increasing ready-to-wear and alteration costs. Weigh carefully the question, "Would it pay for me to learn to sew?"
12. Attention given to appropriate clothing care procedures pays off in extended wear life. Read and follow care instructions.

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