

MEASURING YOUR GARMENTS

It's important to measure the garment you intend to display before purchasing a conservation form. If you follow these instructions, you will be able to select the correct size form for your garment. Please note that all measurements listed will not be required for all garments or forms.

IMPORTANT! *Garments should be 2-4" LARGER in circumference than the form measurements.*

You will need a large, solid and clean surface, a measuring tape, scrap paper and a pencil.

1. PREPARE THE GARMENT

- Button or zip your garment and lay it out face up on a hard surface and smooth the fabric to eliminate any wrinkles.

2. MEASURE & CALCULATE THE CHEST CIRCUMFERENCE

- Place the measuring tape on the fold under one armpit of the garment and measure across to the same point on the other side.
- Double that number to get the chest circumference.
- For example, a shirt measuring 21" from armpit to armpit has a 42" chest circumference



3. MEASURE & CALCULATE THE WAIST CIRCUMFERENCE

- Locate the narrowest part of the garment. This should be about halfway between the armpit and the bottom of the shirt or about the 5th button down on a man's dress shirt.
- Measure straight across from fold to fold.
- Double that number to get the waist circumference.
- For example, a shirt measuring 19 $\frac{7}{8}$ " across has a 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ " waist circumference.



4. MEASURE FOR GARMENT LENGTH *(shirt, blouse or jacket)*

- Flip the garment over so the back is facing up.
- Place the measuring tape at the seam where the collar band attaches to the yoke and measure straight down the middle of the back to the hem.



5. MEASURE FOR SHOULDER WIDTH

- With the back facing up, place the measuring tape on the top of the sleeve seam.
- Measure straight across to the other sleeve seam.



6. MEASURE FOR SLEEVE LENGTH

(This only applies if you plan on purchasing a form with arms)

- With the back facing up, extend one sleeve out to the side and smooth out any wrinkles.
- Start the measuring tape at the center back, just below the collar band and measure out to where the seam for the sleeve begins.
- Place a finger on measuring tape at that sleeve seam to hold it in place.
- Pull the tape measure taut to the end of the cuff.
- Record the measurement to the nearest ¼".



7. MEASURE & CALCULATE THE CUFF CIRCUMFERENCE

(You will only need this if it's a small cuff & you have chosen a large hand)

- Button the cuff and smooth it out flat.
- Measure from side fold to side fold. Double this measurement for the circumference.
- For example, a cuff measuring $4\frac{5}{8}$ " across has a circumference of $9\frac{1}{4}$ ".



8. MEASURE FOR SHIRT COLLAR SIZE

- Open the shirt and lay it flat on the tape facing up.
- Open the collar and spread it out as flat as possible
- Measure from the center button to the middle of the opposite buttonhole.
- Record the measurement to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ ".



9. MEASURE & CALCULATE FOR HIP CIRCUMFERENCE

- Lay pants flat on a hard surface.
- Measure down 8" from the waist.
- From this point, measure across from side fold to side fold.
- Double this measurement for hip circumference.
- For example, pants with a 22" hip width has a 44" hip circumference.

