

## 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