

Sweater Story

With winter approaching in the blink of an eye, we all head into our closets to dig out our favorite cozy sweaters. There is something so comforting about the warmth and protection they provide. In today's economic times, there is no place better to find a wide variety of knitwear for everyone in the family, than your local Goodwill Store and Donation Center. Stretching your dollar doesn't mean sacrificing style, so when it comes to fashion this season there are some top trends I would like you to keep your eye out for while shopping! I'll also give you some helpful hints about cleaning and storage of perhaps the most indispensable cold weather apparel we all own!

Top trends for sweaters include, cardigans, turtlenecks, oversize, slim fitting, chunky textured knits, and short sleeved sweaters.

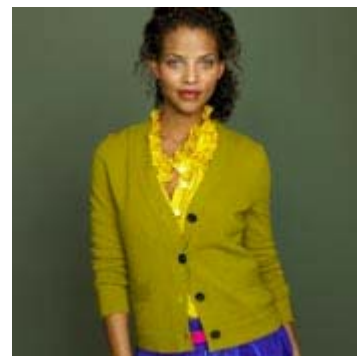
Cardigan sweaters are terrific for layering over other clothing in the winter and the fall. They can be worn over almost any garment, but great with blouses and shirts. I have even seen them worn over dresses to add fashion forward flair and warmth!

Turtleneck sweaters always look clean and sophisticated, and I consider them a wardrobe staple for work and play in the winter.

Oversize quite obviously can look great over jeans and a t-shirt, a fitted dress, or paired with wooly leggings and slouchy boots for an up to the minute look.

Slim fitting means a finely knit wool or acrylic that adds warmth without bulk. Great as a base layer for a blazer, or even another sweater like the ones mentioned above.

Chunky textured knits, have a almost handmade look. Usually made of heavier gauge yarn, they are usually used as a top layer, or even as outerwear as in skiing.



Short-sleeved sweaters, whether worn as a base layer, or worn OVER long sleeved blouses and shirts, they add a new look to old classics.



Sweater vests are not just for your dad! They look fantastic over long sleeved thermals or Henley's for casual times, and takes a shirt and tie, or patterned blouse to stylish places.

Of course Goodwill is THE place to gather up an armful of great scarves of all shapes and kinds! These simple and practical items can jazz up even the simplest outerwear, and give it panache!

Try **belting** an oversize sweater with a great belt from our store. It will give waist definition as well as savvy style.



Remember when wearing an oversized sweater it is important to keep the lower portion of the body more streamlined, like a pencil skirt, skinny jeans, or leggings. Vice versa for the slim fitting sweaters and cardigans. They look great with a more voluminous skirt, flared or full-legged slacks, or even a ball gown skirt for evening.

I know that many of us love our sweaters, but are at a loss as to how to care for them. Most fibers, whether natural or man made, need special attention especially when in the shape of a sweater. To guarantee that your sweater looks super for several seasons to come check out my tips.

Fold your sweaters. Hanging a sweater is the worst thing you can do for it, as it will take on a different shape.

Remove pills from your sweaters regularly to keep them looking great! Pilling is caused by fibers rubbing during normal wear. You can pick them off by hand, or use a hand held depiller/ shaver made just for that purpose.



Wash most sweaters by hand if possible. Woolen sweaters **MUST** be washed by hand or dry-cleaned. Using the home dry cleaning products that are sold in drugstores works fantastically, as you can spot clean and refresh as many as four sweaters at a time, for only a fraction of what a drycleaner would charge. Otherwise for acrylics and sweaters labeled “machine washable” use cold water on the gentlest cycle possible to ensure they keep their shape. Do not wring. Use a large cotton bath towel with the sweater laid flat on it, and roll to remove excess moisture. Dry flat on a sweater-drying device, or even on the top of the wash machine as I have many times!



With all these fashion ideas, and tips for getting more mileage out of your knits, head to your Goodwill Store and Donation Center today to make sure your dollar is well spent on keeping you warm and cozy this winter season!