

Vested Interest

I admit it. I LOVE vests! A vest is a versatile fashion accessory that has made a spectacular comeback as of late, for men and women. The menswear look is always in style no matter what. This garment can effortlessly help add class and a little sophistication to any ensemble. It can be dressed up or down depending on what it is paired with. It is season-less and another one of those great wardrobe expanders! While shopping at the Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center, scan the racks for men's vests and for men's inspired vests in the women's section.



Basically a vest is like a sleeveless jacket. This can include cropped vests and loose knit vests worn open, although we aren't covering those here. The tailored, fitted vest is a great layering piece for men and women alike. There are so many variations in styling such as a tuxedo type vest that has a more open chest with three buttons, a square cut with five buttons that covers most of the chest, and then those that are somewhere in-between.



A vest should fit nice and snug, but again, not be so tight that the buttons pull.

Fashion-wise, a vest should cover the waistline with the pointy part extending just below the waist. How many buttons to button? That would depend on the look, event and your mood when getting dressed that day or evening. I like to button all but the bottom button; I think this is a royal tradition of some kind attributed to the portly Edward VII who could not button his! Another rule here is that unless a vest is totally buttoned, a belt seems like it is not needed and does not fit the silhouette.



A really great feature of many men's inspired vests is that they have an adjustable belt in the back that allows you to customize the fit to your proportions. As well, look for vests that have a wonderful lining or contrasting back. This is usually made of some sort of satiny material. On some vests I have seen this can be a cheap fabric that is not very attractive, but no worries, just wear that vest under a jacket or sweater and no one will know the difference.



Open or buttoned you say? Well I would venture that would depend on the type of look you're going for. Buttoned can be figure flattering by pointing out your waist line, and it can seem a bit more formal. Unbuttoned really looks great with blousy tops and t-shirts and feels totally casual.

Seen on runways all over the world, the looks range from funky to prim and proper, but always right in fashion.

Layered over everything from dresses to tank tops, the look is both retro and fashion forward depending on you and your needs! As you know, styling opportunities with vests are only limited to your own imagination! Whether for work, play, casual, or dressy the Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center is a good place to start when trying on any new fashion trend. Go ahead— rock your own version of the vest to create wardrobe interest today!

