

## Amazing Outerwear Choices

When the weather outside is frightful, a warm coat is nothing short of delightful. With the variety of choices available for men and women at Goodwill Store & Donation Centers, you'll find that the best way to get the right coat for you is to examine your needs. There are "puffy" down jackets, parkas, leather bomber coats, trench-styles, wool overcoats, pea coats and more. Most of us should have at least two coats: one casual and one formal. I like to think of a "Coat Wardrobe" as something just as important as any other item in our closets. Let's take a look at the basic styles and where they are appropriate.

**Extreme Outerwear:** This would include sporty down vests, jackets and high performance fabrics. Usually worn by sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts, but adopted by the city dweller too when warmth is a concern. These types of coats look best when layered over jeans, corduroys and other slacks. For women, they definitely should NOT be worn with dresses or other more professional apparel. Even though many people wear these all through the winter with everything, in reality they should be worn only for casual times or errand running!



**Leather Coats:** We all know that leather is a durable and warm cover up year round. But did you know that leather could in many cases keep you warmer than other types of fabric? Depending on the type of coat style, leather may be layered with other clothing to create customized warmth. Leather always looks stylish as well. Earlier this season I found a leather “bomber” for only \$9.99 at the Goodwill Store near me! A bomber coat is one that only extends to the waistline and has either a ribbed knit waistband or adjustable toggles. Personally, I also have a black leather jacket in a “car coat” length that has a removable, zip out liner. This length hits just at the fingertips when the arm is hanging straight down. The only leather that is less winter worthy is suede which could get water spotted if worn in rain or snow. So make sure to waterproof your leathers before going out in the storm! Leather is by far the most versatile and can be worn with almost anything. But ladies, stick to car coat or trench length for wear with dresses.



**Trench Coats:** There has never been a better coat than the trench. It can be adjusted by using the belt, and usually is worn with business/professional wear like suits and dresses. They can be made of many different types of fabrics such as cotton, wool, vinyl or leather. Look for ones that have a removable liner to get the most bang for your buck, as you can literally wear it year round. The length is usually past the knee on both men and women, and in some cases comes in a “car coat” length. Wear these coats for a dressed up evening, or with sweaters and jeans for a sophisticated “city” look. By far the best fashion investment you can make.



**Top Coat/Over Coats/Pea Coats:** The classic wool topcoat will never go out of style for men. Wear over suits and bulkier items as it is the finishing look for stylish men. The beauty is that it may also be worn with sweaters and jeans as long as the proportion is not too large. Layer on a great knit scarf and you're ready for whatever winter has in store. For women, the rules are slightly different as the silhouette may be more fitted for wear over dresses and tailored suits. Look for "fur" trimmed collars and cuffs for a feminine look!



**Rule:** Remember that your overcoat needs to fit over the rest of whatever you are wearing, but shouldn't be too roomy. It should accommodate your suit or dress, but still show your shape when closed.

However you stay warm this winter, make sure to do it in style by shopping for a "Coat Wardrobe" at your Goodwill Store and Donation Center, where "high style" doesn't carry a "high price"! And, don't forget the hats, gloves and scarves!

