

## Should you buy or sew that outfit?

NEWARK, Del. - Have you ever wondered when it's a better idea to make your clothes and when it's better to purchase them? It's not always an easy decision, especially when one is an accomplished but busy seamstress. There is always something difficult about purchasing a garment that you know you could make for a lot less money but haven't the time to do.

There are many factors to consider when deciding whether to make or buy a

garment, says Delaware Extension home economist Janet Goszyk. Your time, your sewing skills, the difficulty of the pattern, the type of fabric, your creativity, and of course, your budget all play an important part in the final decision. If your time is limited or your sewing skills are less than perfect, it's generally better to sew the simple garments and buy those which would be more difficult to make.

Here are some other tips to help make the decision to buy or sew easier.

Sew the garment if:  
Your first thought is "I could make that designer label garment for one-third of its ready-to-wear cost."

You always have to alter garments (such as slacks) that you buy, anyway.

The store-bought garment calls for dry-cleaning only, though you could make the same item in a washable fabric.

You want uniquely "you" clothes that no one else might wear.

You enjoy sewing as a hobby and do not consider the time you spend on it better used in some other activity.

Purchase the garment if:

The garment is really top quality and will last for more than one year.

The garment would take too much of your time to duplicate.

You like the way you look and feel in the garment, and doubt you could get a better fit by sewing it.

You want lots of detailing, but feel your sewing skills aren't up to it yet.

The design is so new that the pattern companies aren't carrying it yet.

Whether you do decide to make or buy a garment, it's wise to also think about its cost per wear (CPW) factor, says Goszyk. For instance, a \$30 outfit worn once has a CPW factor of \$30. On the other hand, if you wear the outfit 30 times, the CPW factor would be \$1 per wearing. So, the more wear you'll get out of the garment, the more you might be able to pay for it.

## Landscape contest announced

NEWARK, Del. - Homeowners in Delaware have a chance to enter their home landscapes in a special new contest this Spring—the Delaware Nurserymen Association's Landscape Awards Program.

According to University of Delaware Extension Horticulturist Dr. Charles Dunham, the landscape design and planting may have been done by a commercial nursery, or it can represent your own ideas and effort.

There are two categories you may enter: (1) complete landscape and (2) special use areas. In the first category, the whole site will be judged. The second category covers such special use places as the public area of your property, an entry garden, an outdoor living space or patio, a special garden such as a rock garden or a rose garden.

To enter all you need is an application form, which can be picked up from a Delaware Nurserymen Association member. Members designated to supply these forms and other information on the contest are: Ed Collins at Phillips Nurseries, New Castle County; Carl Senos at Choptank Nursery in Kent County; and Blain Bunting at Bunting's Nurseries in Sussex County.

Judging will be based on the overall landscape design—how well it relates to the site; how well it suits its purpose or function; how any structures and paving are used; use and selection of plant material; and maintenance, including neatness, proper pruning and health of plants.


Deadline for entries is May 31. Judging will be

completed by June 30. Initial judging will be based on information supplied by the property owner. This may include landscape drawings, photographs or written descriptions. Final selections will be based on an inspection of sites by the judges.

Prizes will be awarded in each county. Winners will receive \$100 in plants or services from any Delaware Nursery Association member of their choice.

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