

Try These

Fabrics and Styles

For Arizona Summer Living

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When temperatures soar over 100 degrees F. one of our chief concerns is to select the coolest possible clothing requiring a minimum of care.

Keep Children Cool

Loose, thinly knitted and mesh-type garments of fine cotton rate tops for children since they allow for better circulation of air. Buy a size slightly larger so that it won't cling to the body, as knits tend to do. The newer plastic panties have pin-point holes for increased air circulation and quicker evaporation.

Manufacturers are doing much to promote colorful garments for infants and toddlers. These colorful fabrics have a way of fading quickly if the wash water is too hot, the detergent too strong, or the garments hung in the sun.

A style feature that makes children's clothing more comfortable includes shoulder tapes on blouses and shirts which hold suspenders or shoulder straps in place so they will not slip off the shoulder. These are also used on T-shirts. Add this feature to garments already on hand using matching fabrics, or non-twist tape.

Boxer shorts for both boys and girls are cool and comfortable. Old coveralls will be cooler if the sleeves are cut off, the neckline trimmed lower, and the raw edges bound.

The stretch yarn used in nylon socks is being adapted to T-shirts for little boys and for swim suits for boys and girls of all ages. While admirable for swim suits, these fabrics tend to cling to the body and make the T-shirts too uncomfortable for hot weather.

Embossed fabrics are used in garments for adults as well as youngsters. These are cottons treated with a resinous finish with a permanently pressed-in design. Their advantage is that they need little ironing. Since a very high temperature is needed to set the finish and design, many of the white fabrics have a yellowish cast. Colors, especially red, have a tendency to bleed.

Some homemakers try to bleach out this coloring by using a common liquid household bleach which is usually sodium

hypochlorite. A chemical reaction takes place between the bleach and finish and chlorine is retained in the fabric. This tends to weaken the fabric and cause "breaks" to appear. This same reaction may take place when trying to bleach fabrics given a "wrinkle-resistant" finish. A safe commercial bleach to use is a powder type, sodium perborate, which becomes hydrogen peroxide when combined with water. This bleach is safe for all fibers.

Polished cottons are popular dress fabrics but are warm if closely woven. Since they are a sateen weave the longer floats are crosswise of the fabric. In a loosely woven sateen without much finish, the yarns tend to shift on crosswise seams such as waistline and underarm if there is strain on these areas. Those finished with a high gloss tend to be firmer. The high gloss is lessened if too hot water and strong detergents are used, leaving the fabric limp and somewhat fuzzy looking.

Special Fabrics Used

Synthetics such as Dacron, Orlon, and nylon are hydrophobic; that is, they repel water and perspiration and for this reason are uncomfortable in hot weather. Dacron is a little more comfortable because moisture travels along the fibers in the yarn more readily than for others. For this reason Dacron, more than the other synthetics, is apt to be blended with cotton for women's blouse material and men's shirts.

Blending means that the fibers are mixed together before spinning so that the resulting fabric has all fibers present in every yarn. The cotton is used for absorption and the Dacron for strength and wrinkle resistance. This results in a fabric that is quite comfortable to wear, seems to stay fresh looking longer, and is of the "drip and dry — no iron" type.

Fabrics labeled "no-iron" or "drip dry" frequently have been given a finish that makes them wrinkle-resistant. However, not all fabrics so labeled have the same degree of wrinkle resistance; that varies with the manufacturer or finisher. Retailers have over-emphasized this quality. While many of these fabrics need less ironing than untreated fabrics, a light pressing improves the general appearance. As previously mentioned, avoid



JOAN BURK of Tucson (U of A Desert Queen 1956) is wearing a cool sheath dress of screen printed rayon. Joan designed and made her pattern and the dress in Home Economics 44 class.

using a sodium hypochlorite bleach on these fabrics. You may be surprised to find that your fabric has turned a bright yellow.

Full Skirts Are Popular

Popular for hot climates are the full skirts worn over stiff petticoats. Piping at the waistline eliminates a belt which adds warmth. Beltless sheath dresses also are cool.

TUNE IN

Cochise County
Wed., 6:30 a.m.—KAWT
Coconino County
Tues. and Thurs., 8:10 a.m.—KCLS
Graham County
Sat., 10:00 a.m.—KGLU
Maricopa County
Sun., 8:45 a.m.—KOY
Yuma County
Mon. through Fri., 7:20 a.m.—
KYUM