

CHECKLIST: HOW TO BUY A SWEATER

_____ Step 1: Figure Your Size

If you already know a basic size that works for you (S, M, L, etc.), you're done here. Skip to Step 2. If not, use the measurements and the chart below for a best estimate of the size that will work for you:

_____ Measure your chest by wrapping a tape measure all the way around your torso, just beneath the armpits. Record the measurement to the nearest 1/4".

_____ Measure your sleeve length from your natural shoulder to the place where your thumb meets your wrist. Record the measurement to the nearest 1/4".

_____ Measure your neck all the way around, just above the collarbone and shoulders. Record the measurement to the nearest 1/4"

Compare your measurements to the following table. It may be necessary to try on multiple styles and experiment with different brands if you fall right on the border of two sizes, or if some of your measurements fall into different sizes.

	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest Measurement	33-35"	35-38"	38-41"	41-45"	45-49"	50"+
Sleeve Measurement	28-31"	31-33"	33-35"	35-37"	37-39"	40"+
Neck Measurement	12-14"	14-15"	15-16"	16-17"	17-19"	20"+

_____ Step 2: Identify the Sweater You Want

_____ Select a cut/style:

- o Full cardigan — front opens, with either button or zipper closure
- o Half-cardigan — front opens from the neck to mid-chest
- o Crewneck — classic style; solid to the neck with a round crew collar
- o Turtleneck — soft, folded-over collar that covers the neck
- o V-neck — open V-shape in front (frames neckties well)
- o Sweater-vest — sleeveless version (usually crewneck or V-neck)

_____ Select a material/weave:

- o Raw wool — heavy, coarse, and very warm
- o Cable-knit wool — thick, warm; bumpy texture and decorative patterns
- o Cashmere — light and thin but still insulating
- o Cotton — thinner, lighter, and not as warm; easier to clean than wool

_____ Select a color and pattern:

- o Dark solids — most versatile; easy to mix and match
- o Bright solids — cheerful winter wear
- o Argyle — classic diamond pattern
- o Cables/knotwork — traditional decorative form; "folk-art" style
- o Ski sweaters — snowflakes and other winter motifs; only for sporting use

_____ Step 3: Pick Your Source

_____ Select a shop:

- o Online — quick and easy, but may require multiple returns for sizing
- o Department stores — low prices, but limited selection and quality
- o Sporting/outdoors catalogs — often higher quality products; good prices possible with sales or coupons
- o Designer boutiques — most stylish selection; highest prices

_____ **Step 4: Go Shopping**

_____ Head to the store you picked in Step 3

_____ Find the sweaters that fit your style choices (Step 2)

_____ Try on the ones in your size, or the ones that match your measurements (Step 1)

Everything that matches your tastes and fits is your selection. If a store doesn't have anything that works, move on — with this checklist, you know exactly what you're looking for, and it won't take long to find it at another store.