

## Let your eyes be your guide when shopping for quality cashmere

Jean Patteson | FASHION  
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**Question:** My mailbox is stuffed with catalogs these days, and the catalogs are stuffed with pictures of cashmere sweaters. The prices vary greatly, from just under \$50 to more than \$800 -- all for long-sleeved sweaters that look essentially the same. So what's the difference?

**Answer:** Quality is the main difference, although the intricacy of a design and a designer label can also bump up the price.

Cashmere is the exceptionally fine, strong, soft wool of the Kashmir goat, which is raised in the high-altitude regions of places such as Tibet, India and Mongolia. Lighter and more durable than sheep's wool, it is just as warm.

It is best to buy a cashmere sweater in a store, where you can examine it carefully and feel its thistledown quality. First, check the label. It should read "100 percent cashmere" or "pure cashmere." Without that label, the cashmere likely is blended with ordinary wool. When ordering from a catalog, check the small print for that wording.

Signs of pilling (small woolly balls) on the surface of a sweater also indicate a blended yarn. Loose threads and puckered seams on the inside are additional signs of an inferior garment.

However, whether you are buying in a store, from a catalog or online, price is usually a surefire indicator of cashmere quality. It is unlikely you can find a luxe cashmere sweater for less than \$150. At least, not if it is new. If you can find a significantly more-expensive sweater sale-priced for under \$150, it's probably a good deal.

**Question:** What color pantyhose should I wear with a below-the-knee black dress and a pair of black peep-toe pumps? The outfit is for a late-afternoon wedding at an upscale resort hotel.

**Answer:** The point of peep-toe pumps is to give a glimpse of the toes through the peephole. For that reason, many women skip the hose when wearing the pumps.

However, if you prefer to wear hose (which does give a more-polished look to an outfit), then choose a supersheer style the same shade as your legs -- and toes. And make sure you select a sandalfoot style. You don't want unsightly seams or reinforcing peeping through the toes of your pumps.

For an added touch of glamour, paint your toenails a deep, dramatic shade of red.

### Lost & found

**Lost:** Sharon from Chuluota is trying to find ballet flats that have soft material in the toe area but also are suitable for wearing outdoors.

Another reader is looking for pink emery boards with "[Revlon](#)" written diagonally across one side. They come in packages of eight or 10.

**Found:** Good news for Fran, who is looking for a store that has hats and other head coverings for women with medical hair loss. She can find a selection at That Hat & Company, a store with hats for women and men that opened earlier this year in Cocoa Village in Cocoa. For details, call owner Sharon Mitchell at 321-636-6669

**Suzi can purchase Airbrush eye cream by Dremu, an Oprah favorite, at [dremu.com](#).**

Marie from Tavares, who is looking for men's Oshkosh overalls, is out of luck. That brand is no longer available in adult sizes. However, Dickies makes a big selection of men's overalls (and one style for women), available at [dickies.com](#).

Ginger can find Love's Baby Soft cologne at most Walgreens and [CVS](#) drug stores and online at [vermontcountrystore.com](#).

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