

### Sock Styles

#### ACTIVE SPORTS

These styles are specifically designed for active sports participation. These socks differ from ordinary athletic socks in that they offer high-performance features like special fibers, triple-layer construction or pads to provide protection against abrasion and blisters.

#### ARGYLE

Argyle socks feature a geometric knit pattern that produces a balanced design of multi-colored diamond figures against a solid-color background.

#### ATHLETIC

Athletic socks are designed for active sports, often having a ribbed, striped top and plain-foot construction. They are usually knit of acrylic cotton, wool or combinations of the two.

#### BOBBY SOX

Bobby sox are heavy cuffed anklets that were predominantly a girls' fashion in the 1940s. They enjoy period revival.

#### BOOTIES

Booties are soft, fluffy knitted foot coverings for infants and children of pre-walking age.

#### CASUAL

Casual describes all women's socks and most men's socks with the exception of dress, athletic and work styles.

#### ROLLOFF, ROLLED CUFF, ROLLED TOP

These tops are turned over and sewn down during the knitting operation. This is traditionally a woman's style, but recently emerged in men's athletic socks.

#### SLIPPER SOCKS

These are casual in-the-house or bedtime socks that have bonded sole of rubber, leather or extra cushioning or padding on the bottom. The sole can be bonded, sewn or heat transferred to the knitted sock.

#### SPORTS SPECIFIC

These socks contain specific padding and differ according to where the protective padding is placed — ball, toes, instep, heel, arch or shin — how thick the padding is and what materials they are made of.

#### THERAPEUTIC

These socks, thigh-high and waist-high garments are designed with graduated compression to provide a therapeutic benefit and aid blood flow and muscle support in the lower torso. Most are medically regulated garments administered by hospitals or doctors, particularly after surgery or during long confinements in bed. Some non-medical devices with mild support are available over the counter.

#### TUBE

Tube socks have no knit-in heel or toe. They are generally worn for athletics and other casual activities. They may be cushioned for comfort and are available in crew or over-the-calf lengths.

### Sock Blends

*Most socks are blends of two or more yarns or fibers in order to receive the benefits of each. These fibers are either natural or manufactured, but natural fabrics frequently will not give or stretch. Following are some sock yarns and their benefits.*

#### natural fibers

##### COTTON

Cotton is soft and heat-resistant. It absorbs moisture from the foot, is breathable and provides shock absorbency.

##### LINEN

Linen is strong, durable and yet lightweight and able to absorb moisture. It is often used to add strength to socks.

##### RAYON

Rayon is a fiber made from various solutions of modified cellulose. It has a soft hand, high moisture absorbency and retention, and good dyeability and washability.

##### SILK

Silk fibers are obtained from the cocoons of various types of silkworms. They are soft, lightweight and add luster, but can be expensive.

##### WOOL

Wool is the soft, curly hair of sheep that is spun in to yarn. The wool family includes Shetland (Scottish) and Merino (Spanish) wool, which are soft and of high quality. Most woolen yarn used in socks is made from standard grades produced in the United States, Australia and elsewhere. Wool is warm, sturdy and durable. It has a crisp, resilient hand and excellent insulating properties.

#### manufactured fibers

##### ACRYLIC

Acrylic fibers are man-made and are generally warm and lightweight. They are used in casual, dress and athletic socks. Acrylic keeps its shape well. Its other properties include resilience, softness, easy care, minimal shrinkage, rich coloration and the ability to wick sweat away from the foot.

##### NYLON (POLYAMIDE)

Nylon is the first and oldest of the true synthetics. This fiber is famous for its strength, abrasion resistance, dimensional stability, soft hand, elasticity and easy-washing and quick-drying characteristics. It is used in men's dress socks, in novelties and as reinforcement with other fibers. It is a durable, shrink-resistant fiber often used in blends to add stretch and strength to socks.

##### POLYESTER

Polyester is a man-made fiber that is abrasion-resistant, has excellent washability, and is fast drying. It is readily heat-settable and dyeable. Polyester is used in men's and boys' dress socks, in decorative applications such as cross dyeing and jacquards, and as reinforcement.

##### POLYPROPYLENE

Polypropylene is a member of the polyolefin group of synthetics. Inexpensive and lightweight, it is strong and soft, but dye resistant. It adds strength, durability and stretch to socks. Like acrylic, nylon and polyester, polypropylene can be used to enhance the thermal and wicking properties of socks.

##### SPANDEX (ELASTANE)

Spandex is a generic term denoting a man-made elastomeric fiber used in place of rubber. It can stretch to more than five times its relaxed strength and fully recover. Spandex is used in support and light support products to shape and compress the leg. Spandex yarns are often covered with other yarns and are widely used in sock tops for "stay up" holding power. It provides better size ranges, improved fit and added comfort.

#### comfort features

##### ANTIBACTERIAL FINISHES

This durable finish is added to socks to control the growth of odor-causing bacteria. It usually will not wash out for the life of the sock.

##### BRUSHED

Brushes can be used to produce a very soft and fluffy napped surface in socks.

##### COMFORT OR ROLLED TOPS

Knit-down or welt tops can be turned over and knitted down for non-binding comfort. These are less likely to ravel and come apart.

##### SUPPORT

Support socks are made of nylon or polyester with spandex or other elastic fiber added to give support to the leg and reduce leg fatigue. Support provides graduated compression to the leg. Support no longer means a heavy surgical item — today it means fashion and color as well as durability.

##### TERRY OR CUSHIONED

Terry is used as a "liner" in socks to increase cushioning. It can be used in the foot of the sock or as a liner in the whole sock.

##### THERMAL

Thermal socks are winter-weight socks favored by skiers, skaters or others that spend a great deal of time outdoors in cold weather. They can be made of heavy acrylic, wool, polypropylene or a blend of fibers.

##### WICKING

Wicking is the capacity of a fiber or yarn to transport moisture away from the foot for evaporation.

### Sock Categories

*Socks are an apparel bargain that generally fit into different categories depending on consumers' needs. Socks are designed, priced and packaged for virtually everyone. The major categories are:*

#### EVERYDAY COMFORT SOCKS

These are the basic socks for everyday casual wear. They are usually white but may have special features like appliques, pompoms, arch supports or logos.

#### PERFORMANCE SOCKS

These sporty socks often contain technical yarns or finishes that add

benefits or enhance performance in an athletic activity.

#### COORDINATE SOCKS

These fashion socks match your wardrobe. They are available in a full range of basic or seasonal fashion colors and textures, and are often tied to a brand or designer label.

#### DRESS/NOVELTY

These fancy socks for special occasions, seasons or novelty purposes may have special embellishments such as lace or appliques including novelty, cartoon or character licenses.

## Lengths

- **OVER-THE-CALF / KNEE HIGH / TROUSER SOCKS**  
 These provide coverage to the top of the calf below the knee and wear well with all types of shoes. Knee-highs are fashion socks available in a variety of textures and patterns, usually worn in colder weather with skirts and shorts. Trousers socks are thinner and are usually worn with dressy pants or trousers.
- **CREW / WORK SOCK / BOOT SOCK**  
 These provide coverage up to mid-calf and may be worn straight up, cuffed or scrunched. They are available in different size "ribs" or textures and may be modified as a work sock or boot sock by adding extra reinforcement and cushioning for extra protection in heavy-duty shoes.
- **SLOUCH / MID-CALF**  
 These provide coverage up to mid-calf and are designed with extra stretch in the leg for comfort. They wear well with all types of shoes except ladies' dress.
- **CUFF**  
 These provide coverage between the ankle and calf and may come in a single cuff, turned over three times or turned over to show terry loop construction. They can be worn year-round, especially with shorts and dresses, and wear well with all types of shoes except ladies' dress.
- **ANKLE CREW / QUARTER SOCK**  
 These cover the foot up to the ankle and wear best with athletic and casual shoes. They may be made of soft, fluffy knit and can be worn by children of pre-walking age.
- **FOOTIE / LOW CUFF**  
 These cover the foot, stopping below the ankle. They are popular in hot weather and are sometimes embellished with a pompom or stripes. They wear best with athletic or casual shoes.
- **"NO-SHOW" SOCKS**  
 These are covered by a shoe for a "no socks" look. They are popular in hot weather.

## Sizing

*The easiest way to find a comfortable sock is to buy the right size. Customers can find the best size by buying socks that correspond to their current shoe size. This minimizes confusion and makes it easier to find socks that work for you. Some suggested comparisons are:*

Sock Designation	Shoe Size	Sock Size	Foot Length (in.)
New Born	00 - 2 (c)*	3 - 4.5	up to 4
Infant/Toddler	2 - 6 (c)*	4.5 - 6	4 - 5.5
Boys & Girls			
Extra Small	4 - 8 (c)*	5 - 6.5	4.5 - 6
Small	6 - 12 (c)*	6 - 8	5.5 - 7.5
Medium	11 (c) - 6	7.5 - 10	7 - 9.4
Large	4 - 10	9 - 11	8.5 - 10.2
Women's			
Medium	4.5 - 10.5	9 - 11	8.5 - 10.2
Large	10 - 13	11 - 12.5	10.2 - 11.2
Men's			
Medium	6 - 12	10 - 13	9.4 - 11.4
Big & Tall	11 - 18	12 - 16	11 - 13.1

*\*(c) means children's sizes*

For more information:



If you have additional questions about hosiery, please contact the The Hosiery Association (THA), a voluntary organization of hosiery manufacturers that represents more than 85% of the domestic industry, at: 3623 Latrobe Drive, Suite 130, Charlotte, NC 28211, telephone 704/365-0913, fax 704/362-2056 or e-mail to [hosierytha@aol.com](mailto:hosierytha@aol.com). Hosiery manufacturers today make the best products possible, using state of the art technology...providing more options than ever before. We want to hear from you.