![C:\Documents and Settings\library\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\T83A1EVA\MC900232986[1].wmf]()**Sweater Shopping & Preparation Guidelines TAC 11/12**

Knit should be not too big or too small (“standard guage”)

At least 70% wool (or other animal fibres such as alpaca, angora, cashmere or mohair)

Can use already shrunken sweaters or with holes in them

**AVOID**

* Sweaters made from superwash wool
* Sweaters with more than 30% synthetic or non-animal fibres such as acrylic, nylon, cotton, silk (check the label & be wary of sweaters that don’t have one)
* Crocheted or open-knit wools
* Baby or child sized sweaters
* Woven sweaters (less stretchy & warp & weft threads are evident)
* Wool that is not soft or any colours, textures or patterns that you do not like!

**PROCESSING** *(NB This is not an exact science!)*

* Use a hot-water wash, a cold-water rinse with a normal amount of soap
* Don’t use too much water (top loading machines) as friction is what contributes to the felting
* Dry sweaters on high heat – if it’s already felted to your taste, don’t leave it for too long
* You may have to repeat these steps 2-3 times
* When your sweaters have been felted enough to hold a crisp edge when cut, remove from dryer and lay flat

For your project, you will probably need 2-3 sweaters so find a colour combination that you like. You may also wish to trade with classmates!

Suggested price range – $6-12 /sweater

Suggested stores: Any Salvation Army, Value Village at Edmonds & Kingsway or any other second clothing stores around town. Consignment stores are often too expensive, so I usually stick to charity based second hand stores.

Other considerations (or things that you may have at home that you would like to use) – buttons, ribbon, yarn

\*Thanks to “The Sweater Chop Shop” by Crispina ffrench for guidelines