

The UK Guide to Wearing Tweed: Colours, Styling and Care

There are few textiles which are more British than tweed. It was designed for wet hills, cold mornings, long days outside and it's been adopted by offices, weddings and city streets without any qualms about its character. It's now lighter and softer than a heavy cloth many people imagine, and considerably more diverse.



The UK Guide to Wearing Tweed

This guide will outline what makes tweed worthy of wearing, the colours and patterns to wear, how to wear a tweed jacket on a variety of occasions and how to care for tweed so that it will last. It's for the person purchasing their first piece of tweed as well as for those that want to wear what they have with a lot more self-assurance.

What is special about Tweed and where does it work best?

Tweed is a woollen fabric that was originally rough, warm and durable and was first woven in the northern regions of Britain for outdoor wear. It was used by farmers, walkers and country sportsmen long before it was in vogue, because of its tight weave that keeps the heat in and repels rain. The character of the cloth is derived from the way in which the various colours of yarns are interwoven to produce flecks, checks and herringbones that imbued the fabric with real depth. There isn't a standard tweed in existence, and that is part of its charm.

Tweed has undergone some significant transformations over the years. The newer Mills make lighter weights and soft finishes and blends that are easier to wear than stiff cloth of the olden days. Slouched tweed will be appropriate during the fall and winter, while lighter tweed would be appropriate all

year round during the spring and fall. To determine which to use, hold up the cloth in the light and observe how it drapes; consider how many times you will wear the item and how the weather will affect that.

Tweed is ideal for casual and formal occasions. It fits in well at countryside weddings, in autumn, at race days, pub lunches and weekend getaways, as well as creative and relaxed offices with a bit of texture. It also looks great in natural light which is one reason for its popularity for outdoor festivities.

It's not very good for some locations. Whether it's a very formal evening event, strict corporate surroundings or the hot summer days, there is a need for something smoother and lighter. Tweed doesn't seem lightweight in the summer and can get too informal by black tie. The rule of thumb is to wear tweed for outdoors, informal and seasonal wear and to wear smooth worsted wool for formal and summer wear.

Prior to purchasing inspect lining and cloth. The lining needs to be soft and breathable so that the tweed jacket is more comfortable, particularly if it's a thick material.

What to wear? What are the best Tweed colors and patterns to pick?

Colour is the ultimate personal style for tweed! The cloth is a multi-coloured fabric which means even when it is one colour it has depth and is dynamic in the light. The most common are colour schemes that follow the colour of the British landscape and they aren't as difficult to wear as they might appear.

One of the most unique methods of wearing the cloth is with a [green tweed suit](#). Traditional dark forest and bottle greens will appear rich, while lighter olive and sage greens will be relaxed. Green goes well with cream and white shirts, brown shoes, burgundy ties and knitted accessories – it is particularly elegant fit for country weddings and fall celebrations. If you're not a big fan of colour, you should opt for a darker green, and there should be a nice, light fleck in it, which, from a distance, looks like a neutral.

The traditional favourite is the [brown tweed suit](#) and the most obvious starting point is that. Tan, chestnut and chocolate browns are appropriate with blue, cream and green shirts, roll neck and a plain tie (the latter being the most appropriate) and brown leather shoes. Lighter browns look more relaxed and welcoming while darker browns look more elegant and proper for a more formal environment. Brown is another long-lasting color that won't fade or stain easily, making it a great choice for everyday use.

The pattern is for the second choice, and it really alters the temper of the cloth significantly: Herringbone: a subtle, soft zig zag weave that will give a nice texture without being too loud, and it is the least noisy pattern for the first one.

Checks and windowpanes: a more classic style that is more suitable for simple shirts and ties. Flecked or plain weaves: subtle and versatile, and the simplest to wear in more formal settings. If in doubt, select a darker shade and quieter print and let the fabric do the talking. Bold checks and bright colours can be beautiful but on the whole, they have to be worn by the bold person and plain accessories; otherwise, the rest of the ensemble will be too overwhelming and your tweed won't help the beauty in the right way.

What to wear with a Tweed Jacket or Blazer?

The key to tweening is balance. There is already sufficient texture and pattern to the cloth, so the rest of the outfit should be relaxed. The pair of simple trousers, which are clean and well-fitting, and a simple shirt with a simple tie allow the jacket to be the focus, and prevent the outfit from being too busy.

The flexibility of the fabric is the most striking aspect of a [tweed blazer](#) pattern: It will pair with any type of trousers, and can be worn independently. For a smart effect wear it with grey flannel or navy trousers, white or light blue shirt and a knitted or wool tie. It may also be paired with chinos, dark denim or cord trousers and a fine-knit jumper or an open-collar shirt for a more casual look. The natural shoe/boot combination consists of brown leather shoes, boots or shoes with brown leather uppers and a good leather belt of the same colour.



Shirts and colours should be maintained. White, cream, or light blue or soft pink shirts are suitable for almost all the types of tweeds. Don't wear patterned shirts and patterned jackets, because they will compete. If you want to add colour, it can be done by a tie, a pocket square or a scarf; and the colour can be one of the flecks from the cloth. Wool and knitted ties are an especially good fit, as they have the same earthiness.

Another good property of tweed is that it can be layered. A waistcoat, a roll neck or light scarf will add warmth without weight and the jacket will look superb over a navy or camel overcoat in cold weather. The tie can be worn in the spring and autumn seasons with a cotton shirt or merino shirt.

Last but not least, consider the event. When it comes to countryside weddings and daytime events, then it's a perfect idea to wear tweed with a tie and polished shoes. It looks casual and comfortable at a weekend lunch with the collar open. A quieter pattern is better when wearing it in the office, where other clothes should be clean. Either way, ensure the jacket is fitted correctly – texture reveals the cut defects.

Spots can be usually be spot cleaned with a damp cloth and the cloth can be refreshed by a gentle steam between washes. Only dry clean when needed, maybe once a year as too frequent use may strip the colour and break down the fibres. When storing your tweed, make sure it is in a breathable garment bag and not plastic and do not leave it in direct sunlight or damp conditions. A few cedar blocks will inhibit moth infestations in the wardrobe and a periodic inspection at the beginning of each season will prevent the development of any moth problems. This will make a good tweed jacket look better with age and last for many years.

What is the right way to wear and how to care for a suit made of TWEED?

Tweed is a heavier fabric than regular suiting, and as such, must be fitted a little differently. The jacket should fall at the base of the shoulder and allow for a fine jumper, waistcoat or button down underneath without any tugging. The sleeves should just end below the wrist bone and the sleeve length should be long enough to cover the cuff of the shirt over the seat. If the jacket fits snugly around the back or chest when your arms are raised, it is too small; if it fits just a bit "boxy" when your arms are raised, it is too large. Fit the jacket on with layers to try it out and move about in it before making a decision.

Fit is also related to weight. The heavier the cloth, the stiffer it will hang – so choose a slightly loose cut, the lighter the cloth, the closer it can fit to your body. If you are not sure if it is between sizes, ask for a tailoring adjustment on the sleeves, waist and length of your trouser legs, which are easy to do but shoulders are extremely difficult to do