TZITZIT: WHAT TO WEAR

Tzitzit: What To Wear: Which Garments Require Tzitzit

A garment or cloth requires tzitzit if:

- Worn by a male 13 years old or above,
- Contains at least 51% natural fibers (cotton, wool, silk, etc.), and
- Has four corners in which two corners are normally behind you and the other two are normally in front of you while wearing it (A shawl will not normally need *tzitzit*).

NOTE It is the widespread custom to begin wearing <u>tzitzit</u> at the age of *chinuch*—typically about three years old but this can vary by child.

Tzitzit: Knots and Wraps

<u>Tzitzit</u> strings have five knots separating four wraps of strings. This applies to <u>tzitzit</u> whether on a *talit katan* or *talit gadol*. The minimum length for *tzitzit* strings:

- From the first to fifth knots--at least 4 inches;
- From the fifth knot to the bottom (lower end) of the strings—at least 8 inches.

The wraps go around the entire bunch of strings as follows:

- At top but below the first knot: 7 times
- Below the second knot: 8 times
- Below the third knot: 11 times, and
- Above the bottom knot: 13 times

NOTE The total of the wraps' *gematria* values (7+8+11+13=39) equals the *gematria* values of <u>Hashem</u> (one of God's names) *Echad* (is One), as follows:

Hashem (spelled: yud, heh, vav, heh) = 26 *Echad* (spelled: alef, chet, daled) = 13 Hashem + Echad = 26 + 13 = 39

Tzitzit: Shamash

The purpose of a *shamash* on *tzitzit* is to have a string long enough to make wraps.

Tzitzit: Placement

Like all <u>tzitzit</u>, <u>tzitzit</u> on a <u>talit gadol</u> should hang over the side edge of the <u>talit</u> and not hang down from the bottom.

NOTE They are still *kosher* even if they hang straight down, *b'di'avad*.



The tzitzit should hang down along the vertical border (screen left/model's right side)

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