

## How to create a padded coathanger

Padded coathangers are an efficient way of storing garments that are in good condition. Unpadded coathangers can place strain on a garment's shoulder seam, so padding a hanger will help reduce this tension.

If a dress is heavy, you may need to attach cotton tapes from the waistband to the hanger to help reduce the weight on the shoulder seam.

Fragile garments need to be stored flat.

It is best to use a hard, plastic hanger as wooden ones contain harmful acids and metal ones can corrode. Do not store garments in dry cleaners' bags because the harmful acids in the plastic will affect your garment.

### You will need

- hard-plastic hanger
- polyester wadding such as needlepunch felt
- cotton thread and a sewing needle
- washed stretch-knit fabric
- scissors



**1.** Cut a strip of polyester wadding and wind it around the hanger to create a thick padding, particularly at the ends.



**2.** Continue to wind the padding to cover the entire hanger.



**3.** Tuck the end of the padding into the layer below.



**4.** Secure in place by winding cotton around the padding.



**5.** Cover the hanger with stretch-knit fabric. Cut a rectangle of fabric with the stretch in the shorter direction. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise. Cut a small hole in the centre. Slip the fabric over the hanger so the hook is through the hole. Stitch each of the shorter sides and pull the thread to draw the fabric together at these ends.



**6.** To complete, hand stitch the bottom edges together so that the fabric is tight around the padding.

**This information sheet is part of a series developed by Powerhouse Museum Conservation Department**  
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