

N A SIR | SUITS



Overcoat And Vest Fitting









THE LENGTH

The most important element of a proper fitting waistcoat is the length. It should fully cover the entire waistband of the trouser and never let any shirt fabric show in between. This means the trousers also need to be sitting on the natural waist. Gentlemen often leave the last button of a waistcoat unfastened to allow more room at the hips for movement and sitting.







THE SLEEVES

Unlike a suit jacket, an overcoat is made for full coverage. The sleeves should cover the wrist and graze the hands. You shouldn't be able to see any cloth. The sleeves should also be as trim as possible without feeling restrictive over a jacket. A trim sleeve is an important element of a flattering fit.

THE SHOULDERS

The shoulders are the trickiest part of fitting an overcoat, since most guys will wear it with and without a jacket and/or heavy sweater underneath. Look for a coat that is a touch snug with a heavyweight suit under it, like this double-breasted flannel. The shoulders should be gently hugging the body, with no hang-time over the line of the arm. This way, if you throw your overcoat over just a thin layer, it won't look boxy or ill-fit.

THE LENGTH

The length is crucial. Generally speaking, I recommend an overcoat hitting a couple inches above the knee, like we see here on Will. This offers the most versatility, since it can feel more casual when worn with jeans or odd trousers. For shorter guys, however, I would consider letting it drop below the knee a couple inches. It's not a pea-coat. It's important that the coat has enough length to balance out the girth in the shoulders, especially since it's often worn over another tailored jacket. Balancing the body's natural proportions is the key to good tailoring.