

***What is the best/safest way to wash/dry nylons?**

Wash them in batches and separate light and dark colors. Use Hosiery Mate (see directions on bottle for details). Basically you add a little warm water and a capful of Hosiery Mate in a sink. Swish the stockings around then gently squeeze the water from them and lay them on a towel. Some people dry them using a drying tree but I just take them and the towel and lay them on the bed. They dry nice and flat.

***How should you store stockings so they won't get wrinkled?**

There isn't an easy way. Balling them up isn't good. If you gently fold them and put them in a plastic baggy, this will help to keep them from getting snagged accidentally. The trick is not to shove them inside a drawer.

***If nylons do get wrinkled, what is the safest and quickest way to get them out?**

After you put on the stocking, smooth it out by running your hands over the stocking, starting from your ankle and moving up your leg. Now you need to have very soft hands, smooth nails and snag free jewelry or wear a hosiery glove (see question below).

***Should you prep stockings at all before wearing them? Someone once told me that you should dust them lightly with corn silk to help them glide on?**

The stockings don't need anything but your legs do. Putting lotion on a well shaven leg is the best thing to do. The stocking is already slippery so you need to have your legs very soft and smooth then the stocking will just glide on.

***Should you wear gloves while putting on nylons so that they don't rip?**

Yes unless you have very soft hands, smooth nails and snag free jewelry. You can find these hosiery gloves on the internet; one is called the Hosiery Mate Love Glove.

***What is the easiest way to get the stocking seams straight in the back?**

This answer assumes you know how to put on a stocking. When you are beginning to bring the stocking up your leg, put your thumb on the inside of the stocking on the seam. By running the back of your thumb up against the back of your leg, you can see or even just feel the line that your thumb is "drawing" up your leg. This may seem awkward at first but in time this will really get your seams straight.

***What garter belt is the best to use to keep stockings in place (4, 6, or 8 straps)?**

It depends on the stocking. The more straps the better when it comes to wearing a non stretch stocking with seams. Stretch stockings can easily go with 4 straps. The number of straps is only half of the equation. The garter belt itself has to be wide enough that it doesn't twist on you. You can have all the straps in the world but if the belt twists, then the stocking will also twist. There is not one design that I can recommend since everyone is shaped differently.

***What is the best way to prevent runs? Is clear nail polish still the best to stop runs?**

First, always use Hosiery Mate. Ok, this is the second time I said this but I have no connection to the company. This product in itself strengthens the nylon. But if you do get a run, clear nail polish still seems to be the best choice. Also the use of hosiery gloves can help to prevent damage to the nylon fiber when handling stockings.

***What can you do to prevent nylons from slipping out of a single-band garter and having baggy elephant knees?**

You have discovered the problem with a single band garter and non-stretch stockings. The garter belt straps bring or pull the stocking back up when you stand, no baggy knees and the stocking is secure. The stretch is in the straps, not the stocking itself. There is no way a single band garter can do this on a non-stretch stocking. Stretch stockings will work with a single band garter because the “give” is in the stocking, not the band.

***What can you put in your shoe so that your feet don't slip while wearing nylons?**

In Europe, where stockings are popular, they sell a little pad that goes inside your shoe that is designed specifically for this issue. I am now seeing these offered in the USA. Here is one place that has both a retail store in San Jose, CA and sells on the internet (Pierre Silber) – I have never dealt with them but they sell the non slip pads for \$2 a pair. Also, some stockings have cotton soles which were developed for women who spent hours on their feet – nurses for example.

***Are there any sites that sell fully-fashioned nylons in colors for brown-skinned women? (Usually they only sell Coffee color).**

I have always wondered why manufacturers never have addressed this issue. The general rule is that you should wear stockings that match or are darker than your skin color. This doesn't give much help to women with dark skin. Take a look at *MyTights.com* for great advice on choosing stocking colors for all type of skin tones. Instead of looking for a stocking that is made for dark skin (there are also many shades of dark skin), try these tips. There are many shades of black – off black, jet black, almost black, brown black to name a few – so black will easily work but you can't always wear black. I have found that Navy goes well with dark skin even against very dark skin. Gray is another color to try. The darker your skin, the darker shade of gray you should look for. If you can forgo sheerness then you can choose a color lighter than your skin color. Also try brown fishnet and check out textured stockings.

***What sites do you recommend that sell extra-extra long nylons for tall women?**

Part 1 - For vintage stockings go to *StockingShowcase.com*. Years ago, tall women didn't have to worry much about stocking length because hemlines were below the knee. So a tall woman would have a stocking that may only go up to the middle of their thigh. As the hemlines rose and the consumer demand for longer stockings grew, manufacturers began making longer stockings. One was called *Tall Girl*. When the mini skirt fashion hit, stockings became very long to compete with the new product called pantyhose. So when ordering vintage stockings be sure to have them give you the stocking length in inches, don't go by the words extra long.

Part 2 – For other stockings go to *StockinGirl.com* and *StockingStore.com*

***What are the sturdiest kinds of stockings?**

Part 1 - Years ago, women were expected to wear stockings all the time in the workplace. Stockings were not cheap so something had to be done to help stockings last longer. This is when the MESH weave was created. These stockings lost their glossy shine and smooth look but they lasted longer. So women (and I would guess men) still wanted a stocking that lasted but still looked and felt like the original flat knit stocking. Manufacturers wanting to make the buyer happy developed the MICRO MESH weave. This helped to remove the rough look of the stocking. The next advancement was the MICROFILM weave which was a good compromise between flat knit and mesh weave.

Part 2 - There is a flat knit stocking that is also very durable. It is called SERVICE WEIGHT (usually 70 denier). This stocking was used by women who worked in a harsher environment than an office worker – a maid for example. These stockings are very strong, last long and are flat knit (smooth and silky) but the down side is the thickness can be warm on your legs (not a down side on a cold winter day). Again, consumers drove the Service Weight thickness down to 60 then 50 and finally to 40 denier. So you can get a thin to thick service weight stocking but the thinner (40 denier) will not last as long as the thicker (70 denier) but the 40 denier will last longer than a 15 denier sheer stocking. Don't confuse service weight with SUPPORT stockings – they are not support stockings.

***I was wondering if you know the time period that fishnets first came into fashion?**

Fishnet stockings have been in and out of fashion since the 1920s. Textured stockings were popular during the 1950s and at that time fishnets were only seen on the stage. This changed when Jane Russell began to wear them in public. Of course this caused fishnet stockings to become fashionable again. But as fashion goes, they lost popularity and since have been in and out of the fashion scene.