

# 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 tzitzit at the age of *chinuch*—typically about three years old but this can vary by child.

## Tzitzit: Knots and Wraps

Tzitzit strings have five knots separating four wraps of strings. This applies to tzitzit 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 Hashem (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 tzitzit, tzitzit on a talit gadol should hang over the side edge of the talit 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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