

T-Shirts in Style

If you are like most Americans, you love to wear T-shirts. Today men can be considered stylishly dressed wearing the right T-shirt under a sports coat instead of a traditional dress shirt and tie.



Undershirts for the American male did not look like the T-shirt we know today until after the First World War (1914 – 1918). During World War I American soldiers were wearing old-fashioned woolen uniforms during the summer while European soldiers wore cotton undershirts that were significantly cooler. During the 1920s the word T-shirt was added to the American dictionary. By the Second World War, both the U.S. Army and the U. S. Navy were issuing white cotton T-shirts as standard underwear.

The T-shirt was considered solely as underwear until the 1950s. In those days, even the word underwear was never mentioned in polite company. So it was quite shocking to see 1950s screen legends such as Marlon Brando and James Dean wearing a just a T-shirt! But by 1955 it became socially acceptable for young men to wear just a tee shirt without a regular shirt covering it. James Dean made this style "cool" for teenage males across the United States.



Today the T-shirt is part of the American way of life. People wear a T-shirt that promotes their favorite rock band or sports team. Americans wear a T-shirt advertising a place where they have visited. T-shirts with the image of every Disney character are worn by children of all ages. In fact, you can find a T-shirt with every cartoon character that ever graced the screen on a T-shirt somewhere.