

Figure-Hugging

When an article of clothing is tightly aligned to the silhouette of the person wearing it, showing the outline of their figure. While most clothing allows enough space between the fabric and the wearer's body, concealing their figure underneath, a figure-hugging shirt/dress leaves no room for space and "hugs" the shape of their body's perimeter instead.



Muffin-Top

When a person's waist extends horizontally past the waistline of their trousers. The term is a reference to the way a muffin appears when it has been baked in a tin, so that the top of the muffin extends horizontally over and around the top of the tin casing.



Tension Lines

The fabric equivalent of stretch-marks on the skin. They appear on clothes that are too tight for the person wearing them. There are positive tension lines, which look more like elongated seams or ridges, and negative tension lines, which stretch across the drooping gaps (or "valleys") between two bumps (or "hills") in the material.



Positive Tension Lines



Negative Tension Lines



Transition from Positive to Negative Tension Lines



Positive Tension Lines highlighted in red, Negative Tension Lines highlighted in blue

Hills-and-Valleys Effect

When an article of clothing's smooth surface is interrupted by changes in the surface depth of the wearer's body; also called "Crests-and-Troughs Effect"

Ghost-in-the-Sheet Effect

Similar to Hills-and-Valleys Effect, but refers to an otherwise completely smooth/flat piece of fabric that is interrupted by a single bump in, under, beneath, or behind the surface. The term is a reference to how the presence of a ghost is often indicated by a bump rising under a sheet/tablecloth.

Uneven Tightness

When an article of clothing fits unevenly, being tighter in some areas while being looser in others; also called "Concentrated Tightness"

Capping Sleeves

When a person's arms increase in size and become thicker as they gain weight, the sleeves on their short-sleeve shirts will start to rise up, giving off the impression of cap sleeves.

Side Slit

A feature of some clothes that are meant to be worn with high-waisted pants, but inadvertently gives a view of heavier wearers' sides/love handles.

Pattern Warping

When the pattern/design on a person's wardrobe becomes warped due to the increasing size of the wearer's body stretching out the fabric. Also seen with tattoos on aging skin.

Navel Shadow

When the shape of the belly button is visible through the shirt fabric, usually due to a really deep navel, causing the fabric to depress/sink down into the cavity. Also called a "Navel Depression"

The Crescent

A crescent-shaped (and sometimes trapezoidal-shaped) shadow that appears near the bottom of a tight shirt, usually just below the navel/abdomen; this shows the change in surface depth from the fullest point of the abdomen (where it projects from the side the most) to the point where the abdomen recedes back into the torso)

Waistband Indentation

Found on people who wear high-waisted trousers or use the Chub-and-Tuck method while trying to conceal it with longer shirts, often causing a horizontal crease to form through the shirt fabric right where the abdomen meets the belt/waistband. Also called a "Beltline Indentation"

Tucking Lines

Creases that occur when one's shirt is tightly tucked into their trousers, appearing just above the beltline where the hem and the waistband meet.

Unstoppable Wearer v. Immovable Wardrobe

Happens when either A) the back of a person's shirt is either caught on something or a person is deliberately pulling it back like a slingshot, or B) an opposing force (such as the wind) is pushing the shirt back from the front, and the person continues walking forward; this causes the shirt fabric to strain against the front of the wearer's torso as they continue moving, revealing the silhouette of their chest/abdomen from the side-profile.

Suspender Distension

When a pair of suspenders is pulled forward like an elastic band by the wearer's distended chest/waist.

Wet Waist Reveal

The tendency of a shirt to cling to a person's body after being soaked in water; especially common with swim-shirts and underarmour.

Cuffing

Occurs near the bottom of the shirt when the hem flips itself inside out, forming a "cuff" of sorts. Even after being smoothed out, the hem will eventually cuff itself again after the wearer moves around long enough. Cuffing can also occur around the waistband and hems of trousers, especially shorts. The former happens when a person wears their pants high up on their waist, eventually causing the waistband to turn inside out and slide down, while the latter happens when the pant legs on a pair of shorts are too tight around a person's thighs, needing to flip upward to make room. Sometimes cuffing happens unevenly, either compared from front-to-back or side-to-side.

Shirt Raising

When the hem of the shirt is raised up by the wearer raising or stretching their arm(s) upward, revealing their abdomen until their arm(s) come back down.

Shirt Roll-Up

When the bottom of a person's shirt rolls up their torso like a yo-yo, even after being pushed back down, creating a feedback loop. Similar to the way window shades in cartoons are depicted rolling up into a tube.

Seesawing

Seesawing occurs when the hem/bottom of a shirt does not cover all of the wearer's body at the same time. This can occur side-to-side or front-to-back. In the former case, the hem of the shirt will be lopsided from the front- and back-profiles, either covering the left side of the abdomen/back and raising up on the right side, or vice-versa. In the latter case, the same thing happens, but from the side-profiles, either fully covering the front and rising up the back or fully covering the back and rising up the front. Pulling down the raised side of the shirt will cause the opposite side to raise up and take its place, creating a seesaw effect.

Peek-a-Boo Belly

Happens when a shirt has actually become outgrown, and it is no longer a matter of pose or posture (raising arms, stretching, etc.) causing the raised shirt hem. This can manifest along two different dimensions: 1) the vertical distance from the bottom of the shirt to the base of the stomach, and 2) how many degrees of the waist's circumference are covered/exposed (all-around (360), half-way (180), or right in the center (90))

Short Hem, Long Waist

When the shirt fits all the wearer's body except near the waist area, where it comes up short. This causes a catch-22, where the only long-sleeved shirts that don't come up short on their waist are ones with sleeve lengths that go past their hands, leaving them in a dilemma when shopping for clothes that fit their figure.

Upside-Down Muffin-Top

When the sides of a person's waist extend horizontally past the bottom/hem of the shirt, preventing it from being able to be pushed any further. This creates an image similar to an upside-down muffin in a tin.