

The World's First Tartan Database
HOUSE of TARTAN®

How to measure for a kilt

Please get someone else to measure you, don't attempt to do it by yourself.

Use a soft tape measure. Yardsticks, metal tapes, pieces of string etc simply don't work. And don't wear bulky clothing.

The kilt will be made exactly to the dimensions you provide, so don't rush it. Be sure to take each measurement several times. Mistakes can be costly, but if you follow these steps you will get a perfect fit.

Kiltmakers require 4 measurements: Waist, Length, Hip (seat) and wearer's Height. You can measure in either inches or centimetres.

KILT WAIST:

Relax, stand naturally and don't suck in your stomach.

Kilts are **traditionally worn higher*** in the waist than trousers and hipsters. Measure the waist around the navel. This should be the mid-point between the top of the hip-bone and lowermost rib. This point is where the top of the kilt will be. Measure waist with *one* finger on the inside of the measuring tape — snug but not tight.

Men *instinctively* pull their stomachs in when being measured. So even though adjustable straps allow some margin for error, take the measurement carefully, wait a while then check it again.

If it'll help, put a chalk mark where you took the measurement. This will enable you to be sure you are working from the right point on the body when you come back to take the length measurement.

(*If you'd prefer to **wear your kilt lower**, read the notes about **KILT LENGTH** below before deciding on waist measurement)

KILT LENGTH:

The length of a kilt cannot be altered, so take time and get this all-important measurement right.

Stand straight up and look ahead.

(Looking down inclines your body forward and affects accuracy)

Kilt length is the measurement from the top of the kilt to the mid-point of the kneecap.

The 'top of the kilt' is exactly *where* you measured the waist. Measure the length a few times. As you do so, go back, check the waist measurement and pay attention to the point on the torso *where* you measured the waist.

(If you already wear or hire a kilt and are happy with the length, compare that length with this more recent measurement)

Kilts **are traditionally worn high** because Highland Dress Outfit jackets (Prince Charlies particularly) are cut short in the waist. If the kilt is worn on the hips there will be an untidy expanse of shirt sticking out between top of kilt and jacket.

If you prefer a more casual style and never wear a short jacket (and don't intend to) you can wear your kilt as low on the hips as you like. Note that the Length measurement gets smaller the lower you go. Because the kilt top is shifting down closer to the knee.

When deciding *where* to measure Waist and Length, remember how these two measurements impact one another. If you've measured your kilt low, include a note with your order so the kilt-maker understands that the shorter length is intentional.

HIP (Seat):

Stand straight up and look ahead. Measure loosely around the broadest part of the hips. Start snug to begin with, then loosen off the tape so you can fit three fingers inside the tape.

HEIGHT:

Height is a cutters guide. A kilt-maker refers to the height of the wearer and gets an idea of what the kilt length **should** be. If the length is clearly out of proportion to height, we will ask for it to be checked. But please do not rely on anyone second guessing or correcting your measurements. Accuracy is up to you. How to record a set of kilt measurements (example):

Waist: 34 inches (86 cm)

Length: 23.5 inches (60cm)

Hip (Seat): 39inches (99 cm)

Height: 5 ft 10 inches (1.77 m)

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all.

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