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Be On Your Toes About Hose

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Iowa women have shown a decided preference for hose of 15 denier in 51 or 60 gauge, according to hosiery buyers for several large department stores in Des Moines. These hose are considered the evening sheer. Second in importance is the 20 denier in 51 and 60 gauge otherwise known as the afternoon sheer.

Denier refers to the size of the nylon yarn and determines the sheeriness of the stocking. The larger the number, the larger the yarn. If the yarn were the thickness of an average straight pin, it would be roughly 3,000 denier. Therefore, 15 or 20 denier is indeed cobwebby and cannot be expected to withstand hard wear. For your walking or sports shoes, choose 20 or 30 denier.

Another term, gauge, refers to the closeness or fineness of the stitches across the stocking. The higher the gauge, the more threads per inch. High gauge numbers promise longer wear and are also more snag-resistant.

One company

Nylon is made by only one company which controls the patents for it. It is sold as yarn to hosiery manufacturers.

There are two popular methods of stocking construction. Full-fashioned hose are knit flat to conform to the shape of the leg, and then seamed together along the bottom of the foot and up the back of the leg. In the circular knit method, the knitting progresses down the leg, the stocking narrowed by lessening the number of stitches. Seamless hose are knit in tubular form and the leg shape is obtained by drawing in the knit near the ankle.

Personal choice

If your feet perspire excessively, you can buy stockings with cotton or silk sole reinforcements. If the stockings you’re wearing now wrinkle at the ankles and are baggy around the calves, try proportioned stockings. They come in several lengths in each foot size.

And here’s a reminder to wash your stockings after each wearing. Squeeze them — do not wring or twist — and hang over a smooth rod away from heat. It will pay you to be on your toes about buying hose.

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