

Here's how to prepare your wardrobe for winter in Minnesota.



Coat or Jacket. a thick coat is vital. Choose one that is lined with down, or a technical man-made insulation. A waterproof outside and a hood are nice features. Pockets for gloves, hat and all the cold-weather accessories you'll be taking off and putting on every time you go inside and outside are helpful.



(Boots)

Boots. Snow boots seem like an obvious choice, and you can pick up a pair starting at around \$30 online or at a store. Snow boots are waterproof, have good traction on ice and snow, and usually marked with the temperature that they will keep your feet warm at. But they are not very comfortable for extended wear, and can be too cumbersome for driving. They are best for shoveling snow, or any activity that involved actually wading through snow, or for right after a snowfall before the streets are shoveled.

In the cities the streets usually get shoveled and plowed quickly after a snowfall, and as any remaining snow is compacted from being walked on, most urban dwellers don't do much walking in snow. So in the city, a warm pair of regular boots will do fine. Many people wear hiking boots, or sheepskin boots like UGG boots, and local stores have plenty of options for fashion boots.



(Gloves)

Gloves. Waterproof gloves are a good investment, particularly if you have a car that you'll be scraping snow off. And several pairs of cheap gloves are nice to have.



(Hat)

Hat. what you've heard is true. A large percentage of body heat is lost through your head, so a nice warm hat, preferably with ear flaps, is a must.



(Ear Warmers)

Ear Warmers. Ear warmers, or a wide headband that covers your ears, are also indispensable on windy days. When the wind blows, it usually comes from the North Pole, and unprotected ears are soon in agony. If you have a scarf, wrap a turn of it around your head in lieu of ear warmers.



(Examples of thin layers)

Other Clothes. Several thin layers are warmer than fewer thick ones. Technical base layers, available from sports stores, are great if you are spending time outdoors, and minimize bulk.

Winter Clothes for Children



Children will need the same kind of clothes as adults. Several layers of clothes, plus a waterproof outer layer, will keep your children warm and dry.

Children playing in the snow will appreciate waterproof pants, or a snowsuit. Snow boots work great for kids.

