

Clothing Allowance Eligibility

- ▶ A Veteran must be Service Connected for the condition in which the prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication is prescribed.
- ▶ The appliance or medication that was prescribed must cause wear and tear and/or staining to outer garments.
- ▶ A Veteran must re-apply for the Clothing Allowance Benefit each year
- ▶ You must file your application by August 1st
- ▶ You must have received your prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication prior to August 1st
- ▶ A yearly re-evaluation is recommended to determine that the device and/or medication is still medically needed



Examples of items that tend to cause irreparable wear and tear to outer garments:



- ▶ Prostheses
- ▶ Rigid Ankle Braces/Foot Orthosis (AFO) with hooks
- ▶ Rigid AFO
- ▶ Manual wheelchairs without clothing guard
- ▶ Wheelchairs with positioning and posturing adaptations
- ▶ Specialized wheelchairs with sliding board/sliding transfer functionalities
- ▶ Rigid orthoses
- ▶ Crutches
- ▶ Colostomy or ileostomy
- ▶ Cervical braces
- ▶ Rigid knee Braces with exposed hinges
- ▶ Wrist braces with exposed hinges

Example of items that tend to cause damage cont.



- ▶ Some skin medications, ointments or lotions prescribed by the VA that may cause irreparable staining, discoloration and damage not removable by laundering or dry cleaning may be covered.

Examples of items that do NOT tend to tear and wear clothing:

- ▶ Soft orthotics
- ▶ Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) Unit
- ▶ Shoes
- ▶ Shoe Inserts
- ▶ Non-specialized wheelchairs (sedentary/sitting purposes)
- ▶ Scooters
- ▶ Canes
- ▶ Rollator
- ▶ Walkers
- ▶ Elastic/flexible braces
- ▶ Items with Velcro stays
- ▶ Hinged braces covered in fabric (metal stays covered)
- ▶ Braces with plastic stays covered in fabric



Clothing Allowance Process

- ▶ You must be Service Connected and have been prescribed a qualifying prosthetic, orthopedic appliance or skin medication for that Service Connected condition.
- ▶ Fill out the Clothing Allowance VA Form 10-8678 and turn it into your local VA Prosthetics Department by August 1st
- ▶ Prosthetics will review your claim
- ▶ Once a decision has been made, a letter will be mailed to you informing you of the decision.
- ▶ If you are approved for 1 or more Clothing Allowance Benefit(s) the VBA will pay your award amount between September 1 and October 31 of the same year. (this is only paid once per year)
- ▶ If you are denied and you would like to appeal the decision, you may follow the instructions on the Appeals VA Form 10-0998 enclosed in your decision letter.
- ▶ ****NOTE: YOU MUST RE-APPLY EACH YEAR****

What Is Clothing Allowance?

- ▶ The Clothing Allowance benefit reimburses you if your outer garments get permanently damaged by a prosthetic, orthopedic appliance you wear or by a prescribed skin medication, ointment or lotion.
- ▶ This is an ANNUAL benefit paid for by the VBA (Veterans Benefit Administration)
- ▶ Outer Garments include: Shirts, Blouses, Pants, shorts (items such as gloves, hats, and scarves are not included)
- ▶ Undergarments such as socks and underwear are not included



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