

HOUSTON TRADITIONAL KILTMAKERS EST 1909



MAIL ORDER HIRE GUIDE

Highland wear can be a tricky business, especially if you are wearing a kilt for the first time! It's a whole new experience and we have comprised some top tips to make sure you get everything just right and are dressed to perfection! We have also included some expert advice on kilt maintenance, cleaning and storage! Houston Kiltmakers want to assist you any way we can, so have a look below at our quick fire guide to dressing like a true Scotsman and keeping your highland wear in tip top condition!

Your Kilt Has Arrived!

Please find enclosed your chosen highland wear outfit, made in Scotland by only the finest Scottish craftsmen and women! We hope you like your outfit and enjoy wearing it.

We suggest you try on your outfit ASAP to make sure everything fits. First remove the white tacking stitching carefully. This is the final pressing in transit. Your kilt should now swing beautifully! Kilts are bespoke items, and much like a good whisky they get better with age! On occasion, kilts will require some fine tuning and adjustments; but this is easily done! Various other methods of fine tuning can be performed should any part of your kilt outfit not fit, so don't panic! Just try your kilt pack on as soon as it arrives and if there are any problems call Houston Kiltmakers ASAP on +44 141 889 4879 or email us at shop@kiltmakers.com

Top Tips for Dressing

1. Put your socks on first; make sure ribs on socks are running vertical and not twisted. Top of socks should be parallel and same length. Put the garter flashes on socks to the outside of your leg, making sure there is a three to four inch gap between the top of the socks and bottom of the kilt. About one inch below the knee is an ideal resting point for the top of your socks.



2. Put your sgian dubh down the right leg of your sock. If you are left handed it can be worn down your left leg.

3. Put your ghillie brogue shoes on, twist the laces three to four times and take round back of the calf. Return them to the front of your shin about 2/3 of the way up and tie in a normal bow quite firmly and show to the front or side as preferred. If you find the laces are constantly slipping down and becoming loose then wrap them lower down your leg or round your ankle a couple of times.



4. Put on your shirt making sure any creases are ironed out, and put your cufflinks on.

5. Make sure the kilt pin is on the front apron only, on the fringed side of your kilt about two inches from the bottom and side of the fringe.



6. Put your kilt on making sure it is a good fit and it sits well up (about one and a half inches above the hip bone). Then look at the front apron and make sure the centre line is down the middle of the kilt so it is well balanced with pleats to the back. When looking in the mirror the kilt should be in an A shape with the sides well balanced.

7. Clip the chain strap onto the sporran, then put the chain strap through the kilt belt loops and fasten your sporran at the back of the kilt. Make sure the sporran is centred to front apron as shown by the arrow positioned in the image (right), positioned about four to five inches below the top of the kilt. You can rest the chain strap on top of the kilt buckles if you wish. This will secure the sporran a bit better.



8. Then put the belt and buckle on covering the chain strap. We recommend jacket wearing a belt as if you remove your jacket and waistcoat during an event the outfit will look bare, so we include a belt with all our hires. Check that the belt buckle is about one to two inches above the sporran.

9. Put on your waistcoat, then jacket. Make sure the jacket is fitting square on, with the waistcoat buttons, tie, sporran, buckle and kilt centre line all straight up and down. If driving to a venue, we advise that you hang the jacket up in the back and put it on when you get out the car. Try not to drive with your jacket on as it may crease.



10. If you are wearing a shoulder plaid, fasten under your left hand jacket lapel and fasten with plaid brooch onto jacket only.



11. Finally put on your tie, bow, ruche or standard tie.

12. For further information on tartans as well as advice on what to wear and how to wear it please view our helpful video clips at www.kiltmakers.com/tv/

13. To download our brochures and view our buy range please visit our website www.kiltmakers.com or alternatively to view our hire range go to www.kiltsforhire.com for any further information or help feel free to contact us by phone +44 141 889 4879

Cleaning Your Kilt

Kilts are all wool and so **CAN NOT** be washed. Teflon coating protects your kilt making it stain proof. However; if your kilt is **not** Teflon coated you need to take special care when attempting to remove a stain.

If you are attending an event and a drink is spilled on your kilt you are best to splash water on the stain immediately. Kilts **CAN NOT** be submerged in water but an affected area of around one or two square inches may be treated. Later when cleaning the affected area you should use warm water and a mild soap and gently rub the stain, but we cannot stress enough this should be used only on the small affected area you **SHOULD NOT** attempt to clean the whole kilt using this method. Attempting to clean the kilt in this fashion could shrink the waistband and ruin your garment.

If you have a separate swatch or cutting of your tartan we strongly recommend that you stain it in the same way your kilt was stained to use it for experiment before cleaning your kilt. For example, if your kilt was stained with red wine you should pour some red wine on the separate cutting or swatch of tartan and treat it with warm water and mild soap as advised. If the stain does not lift we would then suggest that you send your kilt to a reputable dry cleaner to have the stain removed. In the UK dry cleaners will be more experienced in cleaning kilts however; overseas your dry cleaner may not be familiar with the garment and so if you are having your kilt professionally cleaned we still recommend giving your cleaner a small sample of tartan to practise first. This will rule out any potential damage, as cleaners worldwide might not have cleaned a kilt at all before. As a made to measure garment you want to eliminate any risk of damage.

Cleaning Your Jacket

Jackets are all wool and are DRY CLEAN ONLY

Hose

Tartan hose are HAND WASH ONLY.

Kilt socks are a wool/nylon mix and can be machine washed at 30 degrees or washed by hand. Be sure to dry your hose flat.

DO NOT TUMBLE DRY

Shoes

Ghillie brogues can be polished as normal.

Content of Kilt

Kilts are 100% all wool with cotton canvas and lining. They have leather belt straps with metal buckles.

MADE IN SCOTLAND

DRY CLEAN ONLY

DO NOT TUMBLE DRY

Transporting

There are various ways to store and transport your kilt and highland wear. Our deluxe carry carries your kilt, jacket and all accessories and is available in Grey or Navy. The deluxe carry has a kilt tube which your kilt can be rolled up and stored in. The deluxe carry includes a large zip cover which we refer to as the wardrobe this will be used to store your jacket. The large zip bag also has pockets to hold your shoes, shirt, sgian dubh, sporran and other accessories.



We also stock wooden or metal clamp kilt hangers, which are great for hanging your kilt.



If your kilt becomes creased in storage you can lightly steam it. Take a damp cloth and with a steam iron press away from the pleats. When storing your kilt in the wardrobe you should make sure that it is contained in a protective cover with moth balls so there is no risk of damage or wear.

If through time you gain weight we can provide extension belts which will allow your kilt to be let out if it is too tight. You can also request one of our kilt maintenance guides and our alteration guide to be sent to you which will provide full instructions on proper maintenance and kilt alteration instructions. Just email us at shop@kiltmakers for your copy.

FURTHER HELP AND INFO



Owner of Houston's Ken MacDonald has had his own kilt for over thirty years and it is well maintained due proper care and storage.

For further information on kilt storage and maintenance and to see Ken and his 30 year old kilt please view our helpful video clips at www.kiltmakers.com/tv/