

# Do Socks Count as Underwear?

©Howard L. Kaplan 1995

C Em/B Am C/G  
The folks at Good - will or St. Vin - cent de Paul,

F C/E Dm/F G7  
Who have trucks they can send to your house when you call,

C Em/B Am F  
Must have reg - u - la - tions, when emp - ty - ing bags,

Dm C G7 C  
To help them dis - tin - guish the clothes from the rags.

Dm G7 C C/E  
A pair of men's cor - du - roys, soi - led and frayed,

Dm Dm+G Am/E E E7/D  
Is cer - tain - ly fit to be priced and dis - played.

C Em/B Am C/G  
How - e - ver, a pair of men's briefs, al - though clean,

F C/E Dm/F G7  
Is in vi - o - la - tion of rules of hy - giene.

Em/B F C G7/B  
So how does one clas - si - fy, in - to which bin,

C Am Dm G7  
Those o - ther paired i - tems that con - tact the skin?

C G7/B Am Em  
Do socks count as un - der - wear? For, if they do,

Am C Dm G7  
They can't be re - sold when the first ow - ner's through.

C G/B Am F  
Our rich mo - dern coun - try has few use - ful roles

Dm C G7 C  
For the socks that de - ve - lop a few mi - nor holes.

Complete lyrics are found on the other side

# Do Socks Count as Underwear?

©Howard L. Kaplan 1995

The folks at Goodwill or St. Vincent de Paul,  
Who have trucks they can send to your house when you call,  
Must have regulations, when emptying bags,  
To help them distinguish the clothes from the rags.  
A pair of men's corduroys, soiled and frayed,  
Is certainly fit to be priced and displayed.  
However, a pair of men's briefs, although clean,  
Is in violation of rules of hygiene.  
So how does one classify, into which bin,  
Those other paired items that contact the skin?

Do socks count as underwear? For, if they do,  
They can't be resold when the first owner's through.  
Our rich modern country has few useful roles  
For the socks that develop a few minor holes.

I'd six pairs of socks where the ankles were loose;  
The elastic had failed after years of hard use.  
So three pairs in blue, two maroon, and one black  
I needed no more were stuffed into my pack.  
On Bloor, on a crate in a doorway, I found  
A man with no home, just a blanket wrapped round.  
I don't hand out loonies, unsure if I should,  
So when he enquired, as I knew that he would,  
If I had spare change as he sat on his box,  
I said, "No, I don't. Would you like some spare socks?"

Do socks count as underwear? Is it a crime  
To hand them to someone in lieu of a dime?  
Are there class distinctions one ought to obey?  
Will buskers smile thanks and continue to play?

I've no time for safety pins when the day's late.  
My socks are uncoupled and left to their fate  
In each Sunday's tumbles through water and fire,  
And sometimes unmatchable, leaving the dryer.  
The singleton socks, be they knee-length or crew,  
Could be paired by style, ignoring their hue,  
The right ecological choice, I suppose:  
Preserving the planet, protecting the toes.  
But what of the eyes, while the toes remain warm,  
That see these unnatural couplings form?

Do socks count as underwear? Do they get seen?  
Must those who hate waste combine orange and green?  
Let those who would say so mind their own affairs  
And leave us alone who prefer same-socks pairs.

The socks that I like can be hard to obtain  
When patterns are not manufactured again.  
And sometimes an Argyle, where it won't show,  
Develops a hole that, if left, will just grow.  
I have not the skill to reknit it with yarn,  
And leave a thick lump of crossed wool where I darn,  
But there ought to be, in a city this size,  
Some unemployed grandmothers, still with good eyes,  
Whose skills were developed six decades ago  
In rather less affluent times than we know.

Do socks count as underwear? No one recruits  
The darners of socks like the menders of suits.  
Restorative tailors are found everywhere;  
The phone book lists nothing for "knitwear repair".

Howard L. Kaplan 172 Howland Avenue Toronto, Ontario M5R 3B6  
howard@thrinberry-frog.com <http://www.thrinberry-frog.com>  
Performing rights administered by SOCAN  
This songsheet was prepared in June 2001