



Shopping Made Easy

The Tight Spot Buying Guide

For further hosiery hints check out our [Ultimate Hosiery Glossary](#).

All you'll ever need to know about tights, stockings & hold ups!

1. Sizing

Remember that the product has to stretch to your height and width when considering between sizes. Always check the packaging for sizing, as we will always refund unopened hosiery. European brands tend to be cut slightly smaller.

- **Tights** – if in doubt or between sizes go bigger as this will allow a more flattering, comfortable wear. Be careful not to go so above your size that the tights are baggy!
- **Stockings and Hold Ups** - think carefully about your thigh width and leg length. You want something that stays in place and won't roll.

2. Denier

- Denier refers to the thickness or coverage of the tights. The lower the denier the lighter the yarns used to create the product. As a rough guide 0-20 is sheer, 30-50 is semi-opaque, 60+ is opaque, 100+ is absolute black out!

3. Finish

- **Matt** – No shine in the yarns at all. Popular for everyday wear. Often achieved with wool blends. Smooth Knit Tights are a popular style of matt sheers.
- **Satin** – A sheen in the yarns. Gives legs a natural glow in sheers and a soft, touch of luxury in opaques.
- **Gloss** – A high shine in the yarns. A full-blown glamorous look that lets legs gleam! Popular in sheers and opaques.

4. Brief

- **Sheer to Waist** – The same denier from toe to waistband with no shadowing at the thigh or brief area.
- **Boxer Brief** – A different denier in a boxer shape from waistband to the top of the thighs.
- **V Line Brief** – A different denier or shade creating a V shaped coving of the brief area, similar to traditional knickers shape.

5. Gusset

- **Plain Gusset** – A panel of fabric that is made of the same fabric as the tights is placed in the crotch of the tights.
- **Cotton Gusset** – The panel at the crotch is made of cotton or a cotton mix (or a fabric determined in the description).
- **No Gusset** – A simple seem joins the legs of the tights, there is no panel at the crotch.
- **Open Gusset** – The crotch is left open with stitching around the opening to reinforce the area.

6. Toes

- **Open Toe** – The toe of the tights has been left open. The illusion of bare legs with open toe shoes. Usually elastic or a toe loop keeps these in place.
- **Reinforced Toe** – The yarns are reinforced at the toe, usually creating a shadow effect. Although some manufactures have now created an invisible reinforced toe giving the durability advantages without the shadowed appearance.
- **Sandal Toe** – No visible reinforcement in the toe area. Sheer around the toe so can be worn with sandals, although open toe tights are a better option for peep toe shoes.