



Vest front



Vest back

TransFURmation

RECYCLE, REJUVENATE, AND REINTERPRET
YOUR OLD FURS

HAVE AN OLD, OUTDATED FUR collecting dust in the closet? Is the beaver coat you purchased for yourself when you commuted to work on the train too cumbersome for carpool duty? Did your grandmother, mother, or great aunt just gift you with her formerly fashionable mink coat with the ginormous fox sleeves and tuxedo front? Or, perhaps you just found the perfect vintage fur at the WINGS resale shop. What is on the to-do list to make an old fur garment wearable again?

Whether you need to change a fur garment's fit or completely update the styling, the York Furrier Design Team will help you transform that unused fur garment into a contemporary silhouette that

perfectly fits you and your current lifestyle. To start, the fur garment must first be examined to determine that the pelts are still in good condition. As long as the fur has been properly maintained (summer storage, yearly cleaning, proper at home care, etc.), then restyling that decades-old garment should be no problem. Then, the fun begins with a discussion about the myriad of available design options.

CONVERSION

Redesign a full length mink coat into an easy to wear vest, casual jacket, an elegant wrap, versatile walking coat, or opt to merely trim a cashmere cape. The possibilities abound for the hand-me

down mink to become your wardrobe staple from fall through spring!

ALTERATIONS

Rework an old fur from hood to hemline for a completely restyled look. Refresh the collar from a gargantuan cape style to a practical stand-up version. Remove the coat's massive shoulder pads and sculpt the neckline so you won't resemble a linebacker. Slim the coat's silhouette by raising dolman armholes, taper voluminous sleeves, and remove excess material from exaggerated styles and sweeping swing shapes. Then, lighten-up the coat's overall look by refreshing the hemline from floor length to just above the knee.

SHEARING

Spice up an old mink or beaver coat by shearing the long, outer guard hair to reveal a soft, lightweight underfur. The remaining smooth and sleek fur becomes super supple and definitely more durable. Once sheared, the fur will pair nicely with a reversible rain silk or taffeta lining to create a truly versatile style – a garment that you will comfortably use for both work and weekend.

REPURPOSING

What do you do if the fur you acquired is not in great condition? If the cuffs or elbows are showing wear, some of the seams are split, or perhaps the lining is beyond repair, then consider using portions of the remaining fur to create home décor – pillows, throws, or blankets; accessory items – trim hats, gloves, boots or handbags; add embellishments to collars, cuffs or a denim jacket; or create an heirloom mink teddy bear or tiny fur baby booties.

REPAIRS

If you absolutely love the look and fit of your inherited or vintage fur, then be sure to keep it in pristine condition. York Furrier offers a full range of professional, on-premises fur services to maintain the look and feel of your fur investment: summer storage in climate-controlled vaults; yearly cleaning and conditioning by furrier method (not dry cleaning!); and an array of repair services. From replacing a missing closure or relining a garment to stitching-up fur openings, with proper care, you should be able to wear and enjoy your fur for many years, perhaps even decades, into the future.

THE MAKE-OVER WRAP-UP

Always work with a professional furrier. Spring and early summer is the best time to re-work a fur. Costs may range from \$95 (removing shoulder pads) to \$2,495 (shearing and complete restyling). Expect to wait approximately 3–8 weeks for project completion. U

Kathy Rezny is Past President of the Associated Fur Industries of Chicagoland, a Board Member for the Fur Information Council of America, and Co-Owner of York Furrier, Inc. a full service furrier since 1931 located in Elmhurst and in Deer Park. Learn more at www.yorkfur.com.

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