

BEFORE



AFTER



The York Furrier design team restyled an older ranch mink full-length coat into a shaped walking coat.

Essential Care for Furs and Fine Outerwear

AFTER MONTHS OF BUNDLING-UP in winter gear, it's time to peel off the layers and arrange for your fur and fine outerwear garments to receive some annual TLC: that means storage, cleaning, repairs, and perhaps alterations or restyling for older garments.

STORAGE TIME

Once the outside temperature is consistently above 60 degrees, it's time to provide essential care for fur, precious fiber (cashmere, wool, vicuna, etc.), and fine outerwear (shearling, leather, suede, etc.) garments. Storing these garments in a climate controlled vault prevents pelts from drying out and protects them against heat and moth damage.

According to the Fur Information Council of America (FICA), furs should be stored in a secure

vault with temperature set between 40–50 degrees and humidity controlled at 45–50 percent. Keith Kaplan, FICA's Director of Communications, explains, "When fur isn't properly stored during warm summer months, the fur's hair may appear fine, however, the leather will begin to dry out. Once a pelt loses its supple texture, it will no longer be able to be repaired, altered, or restyled; and it may even begin to disintegrate." Kaplan adds, "Home storage, or using air conditioning, won't protect furs from drying or prevent oxidation which changes both the color and texture of a fur." Home closets are typically 10 degrees warmer than the rest of the room; so, even with air conditioning, the temperature setting is not optimum for fur care. And, DO NOT place your fur and outerwear garments in a cedar closet. Doing so

will deplete the moisture from a fur's pelt and cedar odor permeates fur which is extremely difficult to remove. York Furrier operates on-premises secure, and humidity and temperature controlled storage vaults in both stores—Elmhurst City Centre and Deer Park Town Center. No appointment is necessary to drop-off garments and all store labels are accepted for service.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Using only state-of-the-art equipment, the staff at York Furrier restores a fur's sheen and luster, cleans silk linings, and helps preserve the natural oils in the fur pelt keeping it soft and supple. A thorough, but gentle cleaning by furrier method (NOT dry cleaning which utilizes harsh chemicals) removes dust, dirt, and harmful salt used to de-ice sidewalks. York Furrier offers weather and stain protection treatments, perfect for those who eat on the run, have little ones with sticky fingers, slobbery dogs, or a leaky pen.

REFURBISH

From replacing a missing closure to completely restyling an older garment, the York Furrier Design Team will make sure your furs and fine outerwear look spectacular for next winter wear. When garments arrive for summer storage, each one will be thoroughly inspected for closures, lining, seams, and edges to note any necessary repairs. For older garments, it may be time to alter or update the style. Shortening the hemline from full length to a jacket, reducing shoulder/sleeve fullness, converting a coat to a vest, adding a belt or a hood, or shearing a long hair fur are just a few update ideas. For coats that are "past their prime" consider recycling your fur into home décor: pillows, chair covers, throws, or floor coverings; create a chic coat for a short-haired puppy; or, trim a pair of leather gloves, your boots, or a favorite clutch in fur. 

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Kathy Rezny is the former President of the Associated Fur Industries of Chicagoland, a FICA Executive Board Member, and Co-Owner of York Furrier, Inc., purveyor of exceptional furs, fine outerwear, and accessories since 1931. Located in the Elmhurst City Centre and in the Deer Park Town Center. For more information, call 630-832-2200 or visit www.YorkFur.com