A cropped cardigan with a mock-neck top

Neckline and sleeve-layering checklist • Free, no signup or purchase.

Check whether a cropped cardigan works over a mock-neck top you own. Compare where the two necklines sit, test sleeve room while you move, and measure the cardigan hem against the waistband of your bottom. The free neckline and sleeve-layering checklist records what you find.

You need

- A mock-neck top you already own
- A cropped cardigan you own or are considering
- A skirt or trousers you plan to wear with them
- A mirror and a flexible measuring tape
- The free neckline and sleeve-layering checklist (PDF) printed on US Letter paper, and a pen

1 Compare the necklines

Put on the mock-neck top, then the cardigan, open. Look at where the cardigan neckline sits against the mock neck and whether the top bunches or folds at the collar or shoulders. Note the neck height and shoulder fit on the checklist.

2 Test the sleeves

Bend your elbows, reach forward and raise your arms. Check that the top's sleeves stay flat inside the cardigan sleeves and that the two layers do not restrict movement. Note any bunching at the cuffs.

3 Check the hem and the bottom

Measure from the top of your shoulder to the cardigan hem and to the waistband of your skirt or trousers. Note whether the top shows between them and whether you want it to.

4 Decide open or buttoned

If your cardigan has buttons, compare wearing it open and fastened without pulling over the mock neck. Record the version you prefer.

Tips

- Compare your top’s fabric weight and sleeve fit so you can choose layers that feel comfortable.
- If the two collars crowd each other, compare a top with a lower mock neck before buying a different cardigan.

Important

Optional Amazon links are affiliate links. Check the current product’s dimensions, color, fabric and return terms before buying. Other pictured pieces are separate; the illustration is an AI concept.

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1. Neckline and shoulders

Check	Notes
Mock-neck height	
Where the cardigan neckline sits	
Shoulder fit (any bunching?)	
Top fabric weight	

2. Movement (tick when it passes)

- ☐ Elbows bent: sleeves stay flat
- ☐ Arms raised: no pulling at the shoulders
- ☐ Reaching forward: cuffs do not bunch

3. Lengths (from the top of the shoulder)

Measurement	Inches / cm
Cardigan hem	
Waistband of skirt or trousers	

4. Decision

Preferred closure or open _____

Bottom I will wear _____

Extra writing space

Planning aid. Check the size chart and the care label of the garment you choose.