Long cardigan and ankle boots: check the hem gap

Hem and boot-height worksheet • Free, no signup or purchase.

Measure how a long cardigan, your trousers or skirt and a pair of ankle boots line up before you wear them together. Record the height of each hem from the floor, work out the gap between the bottom hem and the top of the boot, and check it while you sit and walk. There is no universal ideal gap; the free hem and boot-height worksheet helps you find the one you prefer.

You need

- A long cardigan you own or are considering
- The trousers or skirt you plan to wear
- Ankle boots you already own
- A flexible measuring tape and a full-length mirror
- The free hem and boot-height worksheet (PDF) printed on US Letter paper, and a pen

1 Measure each hem from the floor

Put on the full outfit with the boots. Stand straight on a hard floor and measure up to three points: the cardigan hem, the hem of the trousers or skirt, and the top of the boot shaft. Record each height on the worksheet.

2 Check the cardigan's real length

If you are buying, compare the length in the seller's size chart with your own measurement from the top of your shoulder to where you want the hem. A cardigan sold as long may still end at the hip, so do not rely on a product model's height.

3 Compare the boot height

Subtract the boot-top height from the bottom-hem height. A positive result is a gap; a negative result means the hem overlaps the boot. Both are options, and there is no universal ideal. Note the version you prefer in the mirror.

4 Sit and walk before deciding

Sit down and note whether the trousers or skirt ride up over the boots. Take a few steps and climb a stair where safe. Change the shoes or the bottom if the hem catches on the boot or restricts your stride.

Tips

- Write down the gap you like in inches or centimeters so you can check other trousers and boots against it.
- Measure in the boots you will actually wear; heel height changes every number on the sheet.

Important

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

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

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1. Heights from the floor (standing, in boots)

Point	Inches / cm
Cardigan hem	
Trouser or skirt hem	
Top of the boot shaft	
Gap: bottom hem minus boot top	

2. Movement (tick when it passes)

- ☐ Seated: hem position still acceptable
- ☐ Walking: hem does not catch on the boot
- ☐ Stairs: stride is not restricted

3. Size-chart check (if buying)

Size-chart length for my size _____

My shoulder-to-hem target _____

4. Decision

Gap I prefer _____

Boots and bottom I will wear _____

Extra writing space

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