



HATS OFF

by Steven Lindsey

HATS HAVE DEFINITELY MADE A COMEBACK, BUT FOR SOME MEN, HATS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A STAPLE. HATS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF DISPLAYING OCCUPATION AND MARKERS OF STATUS. JUST LIKE MOST STYLES THAT COME BACK AROUND, HATS CAN BE A STAPLE IN ANY MAN'S WARDROBE IF CHOSEN CORRECTLY. WHETHER IT IS A CARY GRANT OR FRANK SINATRA FEDORA OR A PORKPIE HAT BROUGHT BACK BY BRYAN CRANSTON IN BREAKING BAD, HATS ARE A STATEMENT PIECE. WHAT MOST GENTLEMEN DON'T REALIZE IS THAT CHOOSING A HAT IS ONE THING BUT TAKING CARE OF THE HAT IS ANOTHER. EVEN IF YOU ARE THE GUY THAT THINKS YOU JUST DON'T LOOK GOOD IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN A BASEBALL CAP, WE CHALLENGE YOU TO GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND TRY ON DIFFERENT HATS TO ADD TO YOUR DAPPER LIFESTYLE.

STORING YOUR HAT

1. The storing of a hat is key. Most would think that once the hat is removed, laying it on its brim is proper. However, this causes your brim to flatten and over time, change shape. Always lay your hat, upside down on its crown.
2. If you are planning on storing your hat for an extended period of time, buy yourself a nice hat box, store it in a cool, dry place and use a lavender sachet or cedar block to keep those pesky moths out. A hat box not only keeps the brim in place but also supports the crown. And don't forget to store your hat upside down.
3. Some restaurants, cigar lounges and country clubs offer hat racks but beware as some of the pegs or hooks are too sharp and will dent your hat.

CLEANING YOUR HAT

1. Dust your hat. Grab a slightly damp cloth and wipe...easy enough.
2. If you see loose dirt, take a brush to it. Choose a soft, horsehair brush (match color of bristles to the hat as close as possible) and always brush with the nap in a counterclockwise direction.
3. For hair and fuzz, you can wrap tape around your fingers and sweep it gently across the hat.
4. Smudges and stains are a bit more difficult but you can start by taking a rubber sponge to the spot.

You can also find a good hat cleaner and spray it on and brush it off.

DAPPER TIP:

Never touch the hat with dirty, oily hands or gloves.

Always pick up the hat from underneath not from the crown

If you get caught in rain, always allow your hat to dry naturally; don't ever take a hair dryer to it