

Clothing Allowance

The clothing allowance program operates on a similar principle to the military clothing allowance, providing assistance for replacing clothing that has suffered permanent damage due to the use of braces, prosthetic devices, or skin creams. It is important to note that this allowance is granted on an annual basis, and it is advisable to mark your calendar around January 1 to ensure timely application. **The current benefit allowance per claim is \$999.51.**

To apply for the clothing allowance, please follow the steps outlined below:

1. Verify that your back, knee, skin, etc., is service-connected.
2. Initiate a conversation with your doctor and request them to "prescribe" new braces. If you're applying for skin cream, ensure that your prescription is up-to-date. It's advisable to get your prescriptions directly from the VA for allowance approval. However, if you have procured the items elsewhere, include evidence of this with your form, considering the VA may not hold these records. Be aware that the VA might deny your claim if the items don't meet their requirements. Examples that do and do not qualify can be found at the end of this email.
3. Visit this [link](#) and complete the "VA Form 10-8678" for the Clothing Allowance. You are submitting for the year 2024.
4. If you have a primary care physician at the VA, transmit a secure message via your MyHealthvet account to "Prosthetics - Clothing Allowance", attaching the completed form. Alternatively, your application can be submitted in person to the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at your nearest VA Medical Center. You must establish care before you can submit the application to the VA. If you have not established care with your local VA, you may send the application to the VBA regional office nearest your home.
5. Submit the form before August 1.
6. Within 48 hours, you will receive a confirmation message acknowledging receipt for 2024, provided you chose to submit via the secure message option.
7. Once your claim has undergone VA processing, you will be informed through mail.
8. Payments are generally processed between September 1 and October 31.

Should any questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact me. Additionally, if you know any veterans needing help with their claims process, please encourage them to get in touch with me for a free consultation.

Examples of items that tend to tear and wear clothing include: Prostheses, rigid braces, ankle/foot orthosis (AFO) with hooks, rigid AFO, manual wheelchairs without clothing guards, specialized wheelchairs with sliding board/sliding transfer functionalities, and wheelchairs with positioning and posturing adaptations, crutches, wrist braces, prosthesis, rigid orthotics, service dogs, colostomy or ileostomy, cervical braces.

Examples of items that do not tend to tear and wear clothing include: Soft orthotics, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) units, shoes, shoe inserts, non-specialized wheelchairs (sedentary/sitting purposes), scooters, canes, rollador, walkers, elastic/flexible braces, items with Velcro stays, hinged braces covered in fabric (metal stays covered), braces with plastic stays covered in fabric.

Sources:

[VHA Handbook 1173.15, Clothing Allowance Benefit](#)
[VA Clothing Allowance Eligibility](#)
[VA Special Benefit Allowances Rates](#)