

The Redundancy Elimination Protocol

A ruthless wardrobe audit to cure jacket bloat and fund your next grail piece.

The Problem: Wardrobe Bloat

Jacket enthusiasts often suffer from accumulation fatigue. You might own five navy chore coats, three black leather jackets, and four rain shells. Having too many overlapping jackets leads to decision fatigue, takes up massive closet space, and traps money in garments you never actually wear.

This protocol removes emotion from the equation. It forces you to identify overlapping utility, purge redundancies, and curate a leaner, higher-quality rotation.

Phase 1: The Total Inventory Dump

Do not attempt to do this from memory. Pull **every single jacket** out of your closet, from the back of the coat rack, and from your storage bins. Throw them all on your bed.

List them below. Be brutally honest.

- **The 12-Month Rule:** If you have not worn the jacket in the last 12 months, you **must** place an asterisk (*) next to its name.

#	Jacket Name / Brand	Primary Purpose (e.g., Rain, Winter, Office)	Worn in last 12 months ? (Yes / No*)
1	_____ _____	_____ _____	[] Yes [] No*
2	_____ _____	_____ _____	[] Yes [] No*
3	_____ _____	_____ _____	[] Yes [] No*

4	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes [] No*
5	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes [] No*
6	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes [] No*
<i>(Continue on a separate sheet if necessary. If you have more than 10, you definitely need this protocol)</i>			

Phase 2: The Overlap Matrix

Now, map your inventory onto the 2x2 grid below based on their primary function. Write the number of the jacket from your list into the corresponding box.

Y-Axis: Temperature (Lightweight/Spring vs. Heavyweight/Winter)

X-Axis: Formality (Beater/Workwear vs. Office/Formal)

	Casual / Beater / Workwear	Smart / Office / Formal
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Lightweight / Mild Weather	<i>Quadrant 1 (e.g., Denim Trucker, Unlined Chore)</i>	<i>Quadrant 2 (e.g., Unlined Mac, Suede Bomber)</i>
Heavyweight / Extreme Weather	<i>Quadrant 3 (e.g., Down Parka, Heavy Waxed Canvas)</i>	<i>Quadrant 4 (e.g., Wool Peacoat, Tailored Overcoat)</i>

 **Insight Generation:**

Look at your grid.

- **Where is your cluster?** If you have four jackets in *Quadrant 1* but zero in *Quadrant 4*, you have identified a critical redundancy and a massive wardrobe gap.
- **The Redundancy Rule:** You should ideally only have **1 or 2 jackets per quadrant**. Any quadrant with 3+ jackets requires immediate purging.

Phase 3: The "Keep / Sell / Donate" Decision Tree

Take every jacket that shares a quadrant with another jacket (your redundancies) and run them through this algorithmic filter. Do not skip a step.

Test 1: The Fit Check

Put the jacket on right now.

- Does it comfortably zip or button all the way up?
- Can you cross your arms without the shoulders pinching?
- **Action:** If it does not fit your body *today* (not the body you hope to have in 6 months), it goes immediately to the **SELL/DONATE** pile.

Test 2: The Reach Test

Imagine two overlapping jackets from the same quadrant are hanging by your front door. It is Tuesday morning and you are late.

- Which one do you instinctively reach for?
- **Action:** The jacket you reach for 90% of the time is your "Keeper." The loser goes to the **SELL** pile.

Test 3: The Sentimentality Trap

Look at the remaining jackets that you are hesitating to get rid of. Ask yourself:

- *"Am I keeping this because of the jacket's daily utility, or am I keeping it because I paid a lot of money for it three years ago?"*

- **Action:** Past cost is a sunk cost. Keeping an expensive jacket in the closet doesn't put the money back in your bank account. Selling it on Grailed, eBay, or Poshmark *will*. If guilt over the price tag is the only reason you still own it, put it in the **SELL** pile.

Phase 4: The Execution

You now have three piles: **Keep**, **Sell**, and **Donate**.

1. **Keep Pile:** Hang these back in the closet. Notice how much breathing room they have.
2. **Donate Pile:** Put these in a trash bag and put the bag in the trunk of your car *immediately*. Drop it off at a thrift store within 48 hours.
3. **Sell Pile:** Take photos of these jackets *today*.

My Action Plan:

"I will list my 'Sell Pile' jackets online. I pledge to use the funds from these redundant jackets to purchase one high-quality piece that fills an empty quadrant in my matrix."