

Chris's Santa Clothes Suggestions

Suit

First, you'll need a Santa Suit. Don't buy a cheap one – they look terrible and remember this is about theatre – it needs to look like something Santa would wear. So, it needs to be thick, quality velour, with nice fluffy 'fur' collar and cuffs.

This sort of suit is available on eBay and will cost between £99 and £150. Not cheap I know – but it will last decades. It's not like ordinary clothes – it gets worn between 5 hours a year to 50 hours (my shifts as Santa at a Garden Centre for many years). Despite being worn now for something like 300 hours – my suit as I've described still looks as good as new. And parents really notice and comment on how good it looks.



Boots

Don't use the strange shoe covering plastic gaiters that come with most suits. They look bad. You'll need something that looks like it's leather and has soft white furry tops that secure with Velcro. The boots will have zips up the side just as you might expect. These can be found on eBay at between £40-60. Again, they will last for decades and will retain value if you wish to sell them later on.



Belt

Don't use the horrible plastic, thin, belt that comes with Santa suits. You'll need something that looks like black leather with a big brass buckle. eBay prices are around £15-25.

Beard and Wig

Go for the biggest beard you can find. I'd thoroughly recommend you try to find the beard and wig in a costume shop because they vary so much. It's a big one you want and one with double elastic strips that go over the top and back of your head. I'd recommend a very curly short wig rather than a full long hair one. The wig covers the elastic strips so there is only 'hair' seen. On the insides on the beard – top lip and bottom, stick some Elastoplast to stop the beard itching and make it easier to talk – make sure it doesn't show when the beard ins on. An acceptable beard will cost about £15 and the wig £5. You'll need one beard for each person that plays Santa for obvious reasons of hygiene.



Glasses

Don't wear your own personal glasses – you'll get caught out. Children are exceptionally observant and will recognise your own glasses immediately if they know you as your normal self. Buy some cheap half frames or wire framed glasses. I use an old pair from years ago that are small and frameless with tortoiseshell sides. A pair of small wire framed fakes should only cost £3-4 from eBay.

I've played Santa to over 20,000 children over the years – I think you'll find my recommendations really work well. I know the complete suit is costing something like £200 but you'll never regret it. You'll look the part, feel the part, and carry it off with the theatrics of the real Father Christmas visiting.

