

*This Isn't Your Grandmother's*  
**SEWING**  
*Machine!*

When you think of sewing, you think of family because most people learned from their mother or grandmother. Bud Cope, who started A-1 Sewing 46 years ago, followed that familial pattern, passing his sewing machine repair knowledge down to his stepson, Clynn Thrift. After a 20-year apprenticeship, Clynn is now the business's president and is more than qualified to fix any sewing machine problem. Despite his years of training, he still takes technical classes each year to keep up with the most advanced sewing and embroidery machines. The latest and most cutting-edge of which are the Husqvarna Vikings, which A-1 sells.

"We chose to sell Husqvarna Vikings exclusively because of their quality and innovative features, which include the Exclusive Sensor System that lifts and lowers the presser foot automatically," Clynn said.

He also repairs all vacuum cleaners—all makes and models—but chooses only to sell the German-made Miele vacuums because they are the only brand which has the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.

"With their completely sealed system, you are actually cleaning the air as you vacuum your home, not just blowing dust around!" Clynn said.

At A-1 Sewing, their staff includes many long-term employees. Clynn's business partner, Pam McIntyre, has been there 15 years. Sales Manager, Bunny Hurd, has 11 years with A-1, and Procurement Expert, Carmay Sealey, has logged seven years.

Each member takes pride in offering customers benefits—like five years free service on most new Husqvarna Viking sewing machines—which can't be found at other retailers and big-box stores. They also offer free phone support and free owners classes. Sessions are provided for sewers of all skill levels—from beginner to advanced.

"Our customers enjoy these support services, and it makes them feel confident to recommend us to their friends," Clynn said. It is obvious that he takes pride in building relationships with customers and making them feel like part of the family. So, stop by A-1 Sewing Machine & Vacuum Center in the Millhopper Shopping Center and see why their slogan is: "This isn't your grandmother's sewing machine!"

A-1 Sewing Machine & Vacuum Center, Inc. is located at 2005 NW 43rd Street in Gainesville, 352-371-9464. Email them at [a1sewing@a1sewing.com](mailto:a1sewing@a1sewing.com) or visit them on the web at [www.a1sewing.com](http://www.a1sewing.com).

