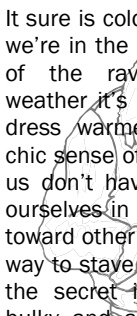


BE WARM LOOK CHIC

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It sure is cold out these days! Now, that we're in the midst of the heart and soul of the ravaging Northeastern Ohio weather it's time to think about how to dress warmer while still keeping that chic sense of style. Since the majority of us don't have the luxury of enveloping ourselves in luxurious furs we must look toward other options. Layering is a great way to stay off the winds and snow but the secret is layering without looking bulky and adding the illusion of extra pounds. How to? It's easy. Follow along:

Ladies, first and foremost pick your fabrics wisely. Cottons simply won't keep you warm, nor will synthetic polyesters, leather, or vinyl. For dress up choose a double faced wool number. Double-breasted styles, otherwise known as peacoats are a great option as are a-line shapes. The most versatile length hits below the knee. If you want to add a little extra warmth, wrap a pashmina (or long wide wool scarf) around

your shoulders and tie as shown. The best part about the pashmina is that once you've gotten rid of the coat you can still hang onto it since most restaurants etc., can be a bit chilly. Again, remaining stylish-ly cozy.



STYLE NOTE: It's tough to find a floor sweeping dress coat. Instead, when going out on the town and wearing a long gown or skirt a more chic option than a knee-length coat is a fitted leather jacket (you may not be warm but you sure will look good) OR a thick shawl. A long dress peeking out from beneath a coat that's too short **NEVER** looks good.



For a casual look a quilted down jacket is a good alternative, as is polar fleece. Avoid bulk by choosing some-



thing fitted and


with thin quilting - don't worry, the down stuffing will keep you toasty. Another nice causal look is to layer a thin fitted velvet blazer or leather jacket under your classic wool coat. The contrast of fabrics is eye-catching while the doubling up will keep the winds at bay.

Guys, if you can believe it, the same rules apply to you! You must remember that the first thing people see when you walk in the door is your outerwear so you want it to be streamlined and sophisticated. For dress up you should own a full-length wool coat that fits over a suit. Choose one in black or rich camel - It'll go with everything. You



should also own a nice jacket in a 3/4 length to be worn out to a nice dinner with dressy slacks or jeans. Peacoats are nice options as are suede or leather pieces. For ULTRA-casual polar fleece is light but will still allow you to shake the chill. If you need an extra layer you can throw your peacoat or wool coat over the fleece (zipped-up) for a nice look.

THE BASICS:

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1. classic wool coat in versatile color: black/brown/camel/cream/red
 2. fitted leather jacket that hits at the waist (choose black or brown)
 3. down-filled coat or polar fleece jacket
 4. pashmina scarf (ladies only)

Spring will be upon us before we know it!