

Neutrals Done Naturally

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At this time of year all of us are more than ready to shed our thick layers and heavy coats in exchange for flimsy dresses and pretty little tops. So what's hot for spring 2009? Why, neutrals of course! Light creamy shades like smoke, khaki, dusty rose, marzipan, and butter are all the rage for the season yet to come and they look most beautiful when layered up and mixed with various fabrics and textures.

Let's start with shoes. A simple hue like latte is the must-have for '09 and will complete any



look just right... The light color also has another positive effect—they have the illusion of elongating the leg (always a BONUS). Try a pretty open-toe pump to start

like these found at Dillard's and pair them with anything from jeans, floral frocks, or a little black dress. These shoes will end up being a staple for you.

As for tops and blouses, choose pretty ice cream colors in fabrics like satin, chameuse, chiffon, or jersey. You'll really wow

everyone by putting like colors together and creating a semi-monochromatic look for instance, try a pair of very



current dusty rose harem pants with a slightly oversized creamy silken or jersey tank/shell. I found this lovely oyster shell at New York and Co. The whole look should look effortless and comfortable. Skin-tight shouldn't be a goal.

Perhaps dresses are what you're after. There are lots of ethereal looking options right now that will breeze you right through tumultuous spring and straight into sunny summertime. Try a color like mist for your frock like this one found at Forever 21



and don't forget to pair it with your new favorite bisque toned heels—smooth sailin' for spring 2009!

Guys, neutrals aren't just for the gals. I'm fairly certain that many of you out there are more than familiar with khaki.

As with the ladies, the key to doing this color scheme just right is the fine art of layering. Stick to the same color family



even down to your shoes so as to keep your look put together. I liked these creamy suede loafers found at Banana Republic that can definitely be dressed up or down. When wearing a color such as this try a pant in a very pale

gray so as not to clash or go to a deep gunmetal or even black—of course the no-brainer is to pair this stellar shoe with some denim... The options are endless.

Try this olive-y grey cable knit with some jeans, and layer over a simple heathered (gray) tee... If



you have a creamy-white blazer/jacket throw that over everything and of course don't forget your new suede shoes! Want to try something other than jeans? When the weather



turns a bit, try some cream shorts, dark gray collared polo-style shirt, and if it's chilly a fine gauge v-neck in a deeper shade of smoke.



Neutrals are the "IT" look for the season and anyone can wear them and look fresh for the upcoming balmier months ahead. The main rule of thumb, no matter what light 'n airy color palette you go with, is: Layer, layer, and layer. Since these colors can be a bit blah and bland on their own you will add interest to your look by rocking out various textured fabrics and slightly different colors that compliment each other.