

Wardrobe MUST-HAVES for both Guys and Gals

ISSUE : 13

Ever wondered what you should have in your closet at all times to remain up-to-date and effortlessly chic? This month I am chronicling the must-haves that every guy and gal should invest in to make your wardrobe one of envy—and one that won't necessarily break the bank. Remember too, that there are no more 'Rules' on fashion. Items in your closet can now be seasonless and will work ALL year 'round making it even easier to ensure that you have exactly what you need.

Ladies First:

1. One GREAT pair of jeans. No woman should ever compromise here, and with all the wonderful new designs, washes, fits, and fabrics no one will be without a pair that doesn't

accent all the positives and accentuate your shape. **Tip: Try a pair with a bit of spandex, a gentle a-line shape, and low-slung (but not too low) waist—typically the darker the wash the more forgiving.**

2. A little black dress. You pick the length—long, short, mid which ever flatters you best. You know your body. Killer legs? Go short. Fantastic shoulders, heavy hips? Try a strapless A-line number and mid length. These dresses are great to dress up or down and can be layered or worn plain to change up the look.

3. A white tank top. Go cheap. Try a guys Hanes Multi-pack. This is an indispensable layering tool.

4. A slim fitting black turtleneck -TOTALLY plain. No ribbing. Spandex blends will keep their shape.

5. Black trousers. Again, perfect fit is of utmost importance here and can make or break the look. Go for the universally flattering and leg lengthening A-line shape in a cotton spandex blend. Avoid belt loops, pockets, and pleats as they can add bulk.

6. A slim, fitted, cropped jacket or blazer. Choose a neutral color, or be bold with a bright jewel tone.

7. A white cotton blouse. **Tip: Express makes a great one that looks crisp and doesn't wrinkle.**

8. A couple "To Die For" tops that scream individuality. Try chiffon or silk in punchy colors edged in lace or another interesting trim. These tops can be dressed up by pairing

with your super flattering black pants or made to look more funky with your "Can't Part With" denim.

9. Accessories: Black simple stiletto sandal to be worn day to night, one metallic shoe—your choice closed or open toe, and brown or black to-your-knee heeled boots. Load up on funky necklaces, bracelets, and earrings...



You'll trick people into thinking you have 100 different outfits. And of course a stand out handbag—a large one for day and a small clutch for evening.

10. Don't forget about the winter coat. Unfortunately our Ohio winters are unforgiving. Be sure to get your hands on one that falls at least mid-calf and fitted so that you look polished and put together even on those blustery winter days.

Gentleman now it's your turn:

1. A crisp white button down. Preferably with French Cuffs to add some pow!

2. A white tee shirt for layering up.

3. A couple of brightly colored polo-style shirts in colors that compliment your complexion.

4. Just like the girls, a great fitting pair of jeans. Go for a medium to dark-tinged wash, easy fit, straight leg. Nothing too baggy. Avoid cargo styles.

5. A standard suit and beautiful tie. Choose one that can be worn all-year round. Medium to dark gray or a simple plain black number will do the trick. Pick a tie in a sharp color with an interesting pattern. Go lighter for summer and spring and darker for the winter and fall.



6. A fine gauge knit sweater. Try a stand up or mock style neck. Layer with button down shirt and tee for a really put together look.

7. Plain front, light toned pants. Khaki or stone colored. Easy fit.

8. Brown or black dress shoes. SIMPLE sleek square toe. Nothing with a chunky sole. Slip-on styles usually work best. Be sure to coordinate with a shiny belt. Also, invest in some non-athletic tennis shoes like Puma, Addidas, or Diesel. If you prefer another cool dress-down alternative, try a pair of flip flop sandals.



9. A light weight jacket - cotton, nylon, or leather to be worn on chilly days.

10. A heavy wool coat. Preferably 3/4 length in black, button-up style. This is an investment piece and will carry you through many years. Don't be afraid to splurge.

STAY TUNED: Next month we'll focus on fall transitional wear!

