

How To Build A Classy Wardrobe From Scratch: 5 Tips

July 26, 2015.

Megan Chase

Publisor

Our personal style defines us and gives us a face of individuality in a large crowd. Not everyone likes to follow seasonal trends; some people yearn for more continuity in their wardrobe from season to season. It is possible to build a wardrobe that's forever "in fashion" and here's how to do it:

1. **Decide on wardrobe staples.** Start by creating a list of basic pieces you need and narrowing down your list by being brutally honest about what constitutes a basic item. Classic pieces in neutral colours can be worn on many occasions, for example, dark denim, a LBD, a neutral cardigan, a white oxford, etc. The basic colour schemes to follow are tones of black, navy, brown, and gray (charcoal tends to be best). Your choice of fabrics and weights will depend upon the climate you live in. Remember, you don't have to buy your entire list right away. Make it a project and work on it over the course of a few weeks or months.
2. **Shop for your body.** The cut and fit of your clothes is crucial, you need to buy what's best for your body type and not what's best on the model, sales clerk, or mannequin. Don't buy something just because you love it, if you don't feel like Sophia Vergara when you wear it, it'll just sit in your closet. Salvage what you can by taking items to the tailor and be eco-conscious by donating the rest!
3. **Be polished.** "Show one thing, cover up another." This means breasts or legs – never both, there's a line between classy and trashy. Yes, nights out will call for a little sex appeal but do not wear a skirt or shorts with a low-cut top. If you want to wear the top, cover your thighs/legs. Modesty is key so be sure to leave something to the imagination. Avoid clothing with vulgar or rude messages on them, it may be considered "funny" but that does not make it classy. Baggy and stained clothing are also faux pas. While baggy clothing makes you look frumpy versus petite, stained and wrinkled clothing lend a tacky air to your ensemble, taking away from your overall appearance.
4. **Simplicity is essential.** Keep your makeup simple, too much self-tanner and glitter is not what Gabrielle Chanel would do. Accessorize but don't overdo it as accessories give your outfit a boost and can make it look more expensive than what it really is. For example, an oversized necklace can dress up dark denim, a white oxford, and black pumps.
5. **Leggings/Jeggings are NOT a replacement for pants.** This cannot be stressed enough. When asked if leggings were pants, Anna Wintour simply frowned and the prestigious Harvard University conducted a study and found that leggings are indeed not pants. The lead researcher was Deborah Collins and she said, "Our margin of error is plus or minus 0.00021 per cent. So no, there's really no way leggings are pants."

There are certain items that are investment pieces, so don't be afraid to spend a little extra on them – provided the time is right for you, financially! These can last for decades if you take care of them properly and give you a little sexy strut on your way to your big girl job with a cup of java in hand. Good luck on building that classy, well-rounded wardrobe, you fabulous fashionista!