

# Fashion Must Haves and New Fashion Beginnings



**D**on't you just love when a new fashion season is just around the corner? We get excited about winter and all the fashion items we plan on buying and then, in the blink of an eye, summer creeps up on us and we're tired of all the black and charcoal because we're being tempted by all the lovely colours and styles of spring.

A girl could go broke just keeping up with it all.

So here's an idea.

Don't buy anything new!

How about revamping what your wardrobe already has with a new attitude and a few simple must haves. I don't know how many wardrobes I've been through and created entirely new outfits with a little imagination. So many women have

looked at me and said, "oh my God, I have three new outfits, I wouldn't have thought I had". And it's all through creating a new look with key accessories.

Streamlining your wardrobe not only gets more wear out of your garments, but saves you money and brings clarity to what you wear from day to day. When it gets to the point that your wardrobe simply can't handle any more "sale" items stuffed into it - and you've forgotten about all the clutter crammed into its far corners - you need to look at it with a new set of eyes. Pull it all out, put it into its outfits and think of what else you have that you can pull in to create a new look.

You can have a great fashion wardrobe that works for you without spending a fortune.

Let's start with the must haves in your accessory wardrobe. By that I mean belts, bags, shoes and fashion jewellery.



## Bags.

Bags can be the downfall of the best of us. We love our bags.

Do you have one for every outfit? And if you do, is there stuff in the bottom of each one? Big mistake. It's money down the drain. We only need one fabulous leather bag - never make it too big - one shopper, and one slightly smaller evening bag. Bags for every outfit is simply an indulgence that will keep us broke.

For a classy, professional business look, stick to neutral bags that scream quality. The big bright gold or metallic sequined bags loaded with slogans or logos can verge on tacky.

So here's the new season rules:

If the dress is loud, keep the accessories quietly blended.

If the outfit is simple, dress it up with one, or two at the most, key items - such as the great belt, the dynamic necklace, the amazing bag, or the stand out shoe.



## Fashion Jewellery

To dress up a plain look, invest in a spectacular necklace. Be careful of very short necklaces. They risk looking like chokers - one of fashion's biggest blunders. There's no more dreadful a look than a thick short neck wearing a choker with a flower or a tied scarf around the neck. If you have a wide neck, jowls and have a fuller figure, a longer necklace rather than say a short string of pearls are going to flatter you more. Reason being, it takes the eyes up and down the figure rather than making them linger on a not so favourite body part. A lovely long neck and thin shoulders can look better in fabulous earrings as a chunky necklace can take away from your favourite features.

Think about your body shape. Jewellery can be used as focal points but can also be a distraction. Earrings bring attention to the face, so can a brooch on a lapel. Big busts and short waists are great with long pieces i.e. long feature necklaces or a long scarf. Small busts or long waists look great with a feature piece that sits right on the décolletage (cleavage).

Coco Chanel once said that when you're about to walk out the door, take a last look. If you're uncertain, take one piece off. Less is more - literally. When we overdo it with all our favourite accessories, we risk looking overdone, cluttered and busy. That means don't wear your favourite earrings with the matching necklace, and the bangles. If we look cluttered, that's the impression we'll give out - that our mind is cluttered and therefore so will be our service.

If you're unsure of necklaces, or simply don't like them, then think about a feature bangle or two. When the garment has simple lines and is a plain colour, a fabulous cluster of bangles at the wrist, as the only feature piece, looks great.



## Belts

Belts have been, and always will be, one of your key must have items, but they need to be chosen well. Many women just don't realise the power of a well-chosen belt. Don't be afraid of them, they are not your enemy. They can totally change the look of a dress or simple skirt and shirt.

Wide elastic belts with a fabulous buckle are awesome to dress up a plain dress. Think of a red or yellow belt with a plain black dress. Pear and hourglass shapes as well as the apples (with the right dress) can look great in them. When you wear it just under the bust at the midriff area, which is the smallest part of the body, be aware that it will make your hip look larger. That's no reason to not wear it, just think about your hip to bust proportion. It can look great with a

short waist or kill the outfit, so choose carefully and try it out. Hourglass body shapes need to wear the wide belt at the natural waist.

An apple shape, typically, is wider at the waistline. This doesn't mean they don't look good in a wide belt. In the case of apples, keep the belt the same colour as the dress. A brighter colour brings attention just where you don't want it.

Thin belts and blingy belts are risky. If you have a narrow hip a blingy belt with jeans looks great, but be aware they do bring attention to the hip. Thin belts must only be worn if they work in with the colour of the dress and don't detract from the look.

## Must Haves

Here are the key things to absolutely have in your wardrobe:

BAGS	SHOES	OTHER
One neutral leather midsized soft bag	One neutral, preferably black, mid heel	One spectacular long necklace
One smaller evening bag with a touch of bling.	One mid height boot	One wide belt with classy buckle
One larger shopper, no bright sequins, metallics or tacky florals	One comfy sneaker or walking shoe that's not a jogger	A set of two or three matching bangles
One wallet sizeable enough that you can carry it without the handbag	One dressy sandal	One or two sets of carefully chosen earrings that suit your face shape

It's not about cramming your wardrobe with as many items that take our eye as we can afford each time we're out shopping with our girlfriends. If your wardrobe looks like that now, then find a way to sell off what you no longer wear on Ebay.

I used to be a shopping queen who was addicted to sale time. I had far too much of the wrong thing in my wardrobe. In fact I'm amazed at the volume of gear that came out of it. It really made me feel wasteful. I made the decision to sell off absolutely everything I no longer wore, made some extra cash, put it toward charity and my business, and now I think hard about how I mix my garments with accessories to get a whole different look every time I wear a plain simple dress.

In the world of business, quality rather than quantity is your advertisement. What you wear and how you wear it speaks volumes about you, your values and your professionalism.

Make this new season a cost effective and fashion effective one.

For more information or for your personal style consultation speak to Anne from [www.anneswhatnottowear.com](http://www.anneswhatnottowear.com).