

MissusSmartyPants
Personal Profile
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Remember: Only the last 4 weeks remain posted at one time

The Must-have Basics for Your Wardrobe

How reliable is your wardrobe? Will it go the distance for you on mornings when you are in a mad rush? Can you rely on your closet to have what's needed for various social and professional occasions—or do you suddenly become panicked with a “nothing to wear” dilemma?

Most closets are way too full with clothes (often 80% or more) that are never or hardly ever worn.



“I can’t find my favorite black skirt—I put it somewhere...”

Most women love what they buy—but hate what’s in their closets. How can this be? It’s because most women (Americans in particular) **over-buy** and **buy on impulse**. This unplanned shopping leads to unnecessary guilt every time a woman walks into her way-too-full-closet—with the thought that she has nothing to wear.

The reason you have “nothing to wear” is because nothing you

own goes together! You do NOT have a wardrobe plan.

A place for everything and everything in its place...



“You can’t organize clutter!” (FlyLady.net)

**Consider a [closet purge](#) BEFORE working on your wardrobe plan.*

Real style starts to emerge when you build a strong foundational wardrobe. Really, it’s that simple. I’m not kidding. I’ll tell women this and they’ll overlook what I just said as if it *wasn’t* important.

Most women want a quick answer and easy fix as to why they lack style. They want to know what NEW item they should buy this season. What color is the latest, what shoes or handbags are the latest in fashion? What style of pant is best for me? While all these questions are good legitimate questions, however, they do NOT answer the **fundamental problem** as to why your style is lacking and not as pulled-together as it could be!

The Must-have Wardrobe Basics list (below) will simplify your life—and improve your style! It’s that simple. It’s the list you need to start building a quality wardrobe one step at a time. No more impulsive purchases or

guilt-ridden thoughts. Your wardrobe will be more stylish, yet less expensive in the long run when you own more basic pieces.

Wardrobe Basics are grab-n-go pieces that you can wear for anything. They are classic and often season-less. They fit you well and you wear them with confidence--and you wear them often!

___Buy the best quality you can afford (they are items you wear all the time)

___get alterations so they fit like a glove

___Some will be inexpensive (t-shirts, tanks) some expensive (quality handbag)

___Some need frequent replacing (white tees) some last years (quality shoes)

___With enough basics, you are able to adapt to a variety of social/professional needs for your lifestyle

___You could wear a basic piece several times a week and no one would notice

*One famous Wardrobe Basic is the LBD (Little Black Dress).
It's a "blank canvas" you dress up or down to suit your taste and the occasion...*

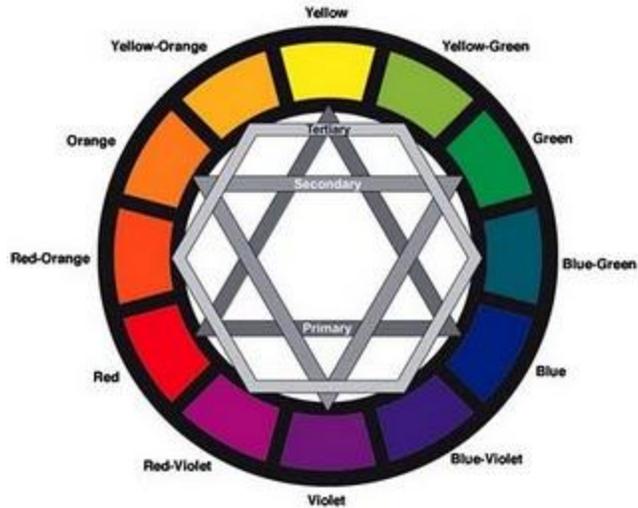


JCP V-neck Empire Waist Dress

Pick your wardrobe basic colors/wardrobe neutral colors. These are basic SOLID colors that give your wardrobe flexibility. You can mix and match your pieces easily with each other. **Start with basic pieces in the most essential colors first.** Then if you want to add more color with your basics you can (like true red, purple, etc).

Choose your wardrobe basic/neutral colors: black, gray, navy, white, winter white, camel, khaki and brown.

(If needed, use your [Seasonal Colors](#) chart to help guide you)



The color chart (above) shows these color mixing techniques:

___ **Colors directly next to each other** (yellow and yellow-orange; yellow and yellow-green; violet and blue-violet, etc.)

___ **Colors that form right (90 degree) angles with each other** (yellow and red-orange; blue and violet-red; green and orange, etc.)

___ **Colors directly across from each other** (yellow and violet; blue and orange; red and green, etc.)

___ **Colors that form a T** (blue, orange, and violet-red; yellow, violet, and red-orange; yellow, blue-green, and red-orange, etc.)

___ **Colors that form an “X”** (blue, orange, violet-red, and yellow, violet, blue-green and red-orange)



*The picture above has 3 fabrics ALL with a sage green in them.
All 3 prints are a different scale but have sage green in common...
(This works for your clothes & home décor)*

Not sure what you can wear with your gray suit? Use this chart below to help you mix colors in your wardrobe:

- **Soft pink:** browns, tan, mint green, olive green, gray, turquoise
- **Fuchsia:** gray, tan, yellows, lime green, mint green, browns
- **Tomato red:** baby blue, mint green, winter white, gray
- **Cherry red:** blues, gray, pale orange, pale yellow
- **Light brown:** pale yellow, creamy white, blues, greens, purples, reds
- **Dark brown:** lemon yellow, robin's egg blue, mint, soft purple, lime green
- **Tan:** soft pink, dark brown, blues, greens, purples
- **Pale orange:** gray, browns, forest green
- **Dark orange:** pale yellow, forest green, browns, cherry red
- **Lemon yellow:** cherry red, browns, blues, gray
- **Pale yellow:** fuchsia, gray, browns, tan, reds, blues, purples
- **Golden/mustard yellow:** gray, browns, blues, reds, black
- **Lime green:** tan, browns, pinks, dark orange, navy blue, gray
- **Forrest green:** oranges, light brown, tan
- **Olive green:** tan, browns, grays, creamy white, black,
- **Mint green:** brown, gray, navy blue, reds, gray, tan
- **Turquoise:** fuchsia, cherry red, tan, browns, creamy white, dark purple
- **Electric blue:** golden yellow, tan, light brown, gray or silver
- **Baby blue:** reds, gray, browns, dark orange
- **Navy blue:** soft purple, tan, brown, gray, yellows, oranges, greens, reds, pale colors
- **Purple:** dark orange, dark purple, olive green
- **Dark purple:** tan, pale yellow, gray, turquoise, mint green, pale orange

Similar color tones work best together. Dark with bright, or soft with soft mid-tones...



The Must-Have Wardrobe Basics List:

This is a “bare bones” list. Adjust according to your lifestyle, but remember the key to any successful wardrobe is having items that can be mixed and matched with other items. Please note this list is not broken up the seasons. Some of your items will be year round and some will be seasonal.

Basics are: solid colored, simple, classic, functional, comfortable and versatile....

Shirts/tops:

- ___ 7-10 work tops/blouses (mostly solids, some prints that coordinate w/ basics)
- ___ 2 casual weekend shirts
- ___ 4 basic v-neck tees, tanks and camisoles
- ___ 1 dressy/evening top

Sweaters:

- ___ 3 sweaters, season-less lightweight

Pants:

- ___ 3 pairs of work pants
- ___ 2 pairs of casual pants
- ___ 2 pairs of jeans (one dark, one mid-tone)
- ___ 1 pair of evening/dress pants

Skirts:

- ___ 2 skirts for work
- ___ 1 skirt for weekend or casual
- ___ 1 skirt for evenings or social events

Dresses: *(If dresses don't fit you well, add more separates to your list)*

- ___ 1-2 for work
- ___ 1-2 for weekend, casual
- ___ 1 for evening/dressy

Jackets/Coats: (your needs will vary by climate)

- ___ 2 fitted jackets for work (coordinates w/ pants, skirts)
- ___ 1 casual jacket for weekend or casual
- ___ 1 winter/cold weather coat
- ___ 1 evening jacket or wrap

Shoes:

- ___ 1 pair of lace-ups (sneakers)
- ___ 2 pairs of black, brown or navy (depending on your base color) casual walking
- ___ 2 pairs of work shoes in black, brown, nude
- ___ 1 pair of stylish boots for winter
- ___ 1 pair of sandals for summer
- ___ 1 pair of evening shoes

__1-2 handbags, classic design (shape opposite of your body shape)

Your Wardrobe Budget. *Spend the bulk of your budget on the basics. 80% to 60% of your wardrobe should be basic pieces. Quality basics will last and remain fashionable for years to come. (By buying the best quality you can afford, this will save you money in the long run—by not constantly replacing worn items).*

**** Style Tip:** You can stretch your wardrobe if own two shirts for every pant (or skirt). Pants and skirts can be repeated more often than your shirts.

Fill in the remainder of your wardrobe with accessories. These items are often the trendier or more seasonable items and have a shorter shelf life in your wardrobe. And for those of you who do not have a wardrobe budget - get one. The easiest way to have an out-of-control closet is to go shopping willy-nilly and without a plan!



Now that you've got a wardrobe plan...let the fabulous style begin!

Love, Leslie MSP

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