

Sunny Dresses for Summer

Exactly what is a sundress? I would categorize it as a very lightweight dress made from breathable cotton fabric primarily worn in summer or in climates where the temperatures are warm year round. Intended to be casual, in recent years the sundress has had many incarnations and many different looks. Obviously it is meant to provide some exposure to the sun, but can also be layered under a lightweight cotton blouse or jacket. This is always a feminine and flirty look given that most styles skim away from the wearer's body, and have fuller skirts. Today's sundress is all about individuality given the many choices that you can find at the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center near you! I'll show you a few looks and what sets them apart, yet makes them all cut from the same sunny cloth!



A vintage look sundress will remind you of something your grandma or mom wore every day to clean the house or do the shopping. It has cap sleeves or short sleeves and is right around the knee length. It doesn't expose too much skin, so it would be appropriate for a lot of casual activities in town or the country.



The most common and the one that I remember from the '70s is a dress with ruching and smocking that creates a tube top at the bust line. I have seen these in every length and style and I would consider this a summer staple. Beware if you have a large bust, there is not a lot of support here, and a bra underneath would look odd.



Halter styles are always a good bet for many reasons. They offer maximum sun exposure and they do offer some support and shape for the bust line. Whether short, long or maxi they always work on most body types, and especially if you are smaller on top and larger on the bottom. The cut of the top will help to minimize the lower half while drawing the eye upwards.



Beach styles usually have a Hawaiian print or tropical look to them. They might feature a halter style, and is fabricated from a more floaty type of cotton chiffon. They are the lightest of lightweight and are meant to catch whatever breeze is around. Traditionally they're longer in length, and sometimes used as a beach cover-up. They can also look quite elegant depending on what accessories you choose. I always think of the "Love Boat" when describing this style!



The sleeveless sundress zips up the back and is styled a little like a sheath dress with an a-line skirt. They range from mild to wild, and I have seen some with their own petticoat sewn into the skirt. These are fun, flirty and girly. They would be great for an occasion that is less casual and beachy as they provide much more demure coverage than most of the others I have mentioned.



Whatever style you choose, you'll always find lots of options at the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center near you. Colorful and sassy, they are a great way to stay stylish while beating the heat. As the Beatles said, "Here comes the sun"!

