

Give 'Em The Boot!

Boots have been a modern woman's style staple since the swinging '60s "Carnaby Street" look popularized them. But, are you aware of just how many variations and styles are available today? A recent trip to the Goodwill Retail Store & Donation Center led me to believe that an explanation of "types of boots" and suggestions on how and what to wear with them were called for, especially heading into our long winter. Bring on the cold and snow while still showing your individual fashion sense with these great tips.



Boot Styles

The overwhelming winner in the "must have" category would be the **riding boot**, or a knee length flat-bottomed boot. These have been prevalent on all the runways, and were even recently featured on "Oprah". These types of boots look absolutely best over a skinny jean since there is a more casual feel to them. Think of the English Countryside gone *citified*. Paired with a great flounced blouse and a well fitted jacket, and you will be right on the money. Look for knee length for the most impact, but calf length will give just as much fashion punch to your outfit!



The **shoe booty** has its roots in the '80s for sure, but it also has elements of the gladiator sandal. Open toes can be worn with heavy tights, and there is also a whole range that looks like a high-heeled oxford lace up. I really love the look of this type of boot with dresses and skirts because slacks will cover up the details that make them so unique looking. The rules here would be to wear a patent leather or open toe variety for evening, and the boxier looking with more casual duds. This is also where leggings can come into play, as they will highlight your fabulous footwear! Almost any woman can find a pair that will flatter her.



The **cowboy boot** has never really been out of style, and has been seen on celebrities and regular folk as well. Great for that city/country look with jumpers, skirts, dresses and blue jeans. In this same category we have the **Frye boot**, which is really a name brand, but I would include any casual leather boot with a square heel. They may have a round toe or square, but they will look decidedly more "dressed down". Wear them with heavy tights and dresses, or even wooly leggings and an oversized sweater! These types of boots are the easiest of all to wear, as there are no high heels involved. I always spy these on the racks at the Goodwill Retail Stores I frequent, and they're a breeze to clean up with a little saddle soap and elbow grease!



High heeled side zipper boots in brown or black have always been in vogue, and do seem to be worn more and more as an alternative to pumps with dresses and skirts alike. When wearing this dressy footwear, keep in mind that the leather should be lightweight and they should fit your calves like a glove. Nothing looks worse than boots that don't fit the leg properly, or have marred or scuffed heels! A little care and repair will go a long way to making sure you look great!



Last but not least we have what I call the **winter boot**, yes this would include the popular "Ugg's" and anything that looks like you could be on a mountain trek. I know that celebrities and others like to wear these whether it's cold out or not, but I feel that this can make a lighter weight dress or outfit seem "bottom heavy". Call me old fashioned, but I always feel the more functional a boot is, the more it limits the wearer's clothing options. If you are a punk rocker at heart you can also go for the "combat boot" or "Doc Marten's" look as well. Practical for students and walkers alike in our chilly climate, but they do seem out of place in any type of dressed up situation.



In the end everyone should own one or two pairs of boots. There are so many varieties that I could only cover the ones that are **"in"**. Really look at what you already have at home, and see if you aren't in need of a footwear style intervention! Giving yourself the boot can be a great thing especially at the reasonable prices at the Goodwill Store & Donation Center near you!

