

Top Ten Fashion Faux Pas of All Time!

What is a faux pas you ask? Well in dictionary terms it means, *"literally, a false step. A social blunder."* When it comes to fashion and style the meaning stays the same. In this column I will name my top ten fashion faux pas of all time. Please be advised to avoid these looks at all costs! I do realize that everyone wants to have his or her own "style", but these sartorial disasters are never, ever "hip, cool, or stylish!" Dressing badly is not good or forward thinking fashion, no matter where you shop or how much you spend. In the end, great style is defined by confidence in yourself and your wardrobe supporting that confidence. Now, let's talk about our top ten.

1. **Socks with sandals.** While some of the photos here are from the runways of New York and Paris, these never work. They are simply a gussied up version of our other illustration. Worst offense? White and/or black socks and sandals!



2. **Neon colors.** Neon is a tough thing to wear. You could end up looking like Cyndi Lauper, or worse yet, a crazy clown! To do neon right, confine it to an accessory like the purse shown. These colors are way too bright and have a tendency to over power the wearer.



3. **Clothing that doesn't fit.** My adage is always, "If you wear oversize clothing that doesn't fit, you'll eventually grow into it!" Witness the fact that many men and women wear Large and XXL because they think it camouflages their body flaws, when in reality it makes them look twice as large! Clothing should skim the body and define it without constriction.



4. Clothing that doesn't fit, part 2. The same as three but with clothing that is too tight. Buttons that are puckering down the front of a shirt and bulging in all the wrong places—you get my drift. Make sure that your clothing doesn't make you appear as if you're a stuffed sausage!



5. Awful prints. Prints are a tough thing to navigate for most people. When in doubt, confine your print to a blouse, shirt, scarf or tie. As you become more confident, become bolder in your choices. Just remember that a print can really look great in small doses. But when overdone it can look both matronly and garish!



6. Bulky layers. Layering is an awesome trend when done in proportion. When it goes wrong you might end up looking like one of the Olsen twins. A huge bag, oversize sweater, with ruffled blouse only adds up to "yikes!"



7. Designer logo overdose. Yes the logo look is over. Please refrain from branding your purse, jeans, or shoes with an advertisement for a designer. Instead of looking cool, you really look like you're trying way too hard.



8. Workout wear as fashion. Sorry, Juicy Couture, but the track suit/sweat pants look is just horrible! Unless, you actually are working out. I don't care how much you spent; it will just look cheap and sloppy.



9. Overly distressed denim. While the ripped and torn look was in for a short period, I stopped wearing it years ago. Do it right with a “vintage” wash and some slight distressing. Looking as though a dog ripped your jeans, or you were just in a car accident is not a trend anymore, thank goodness.



10. Fanny packs. These are under **no** circumstances to be worn by anyone, ever! Why would you want to put a pouch around your waist to accentuate it? Especially if you’re not that slim to begin with. Please men, wear slacks or jeans with pockets, and gals, carry a handbag!



Well, now you’ve heard my top ten list of fashion disasters, it is now time to head to your Goodwill Store and Donation Center and pull together a style that won’t put you on the “worst dressed list!” Know what you need, recognize good fit, and take an honest friend along whose style you admire—he/she may teach you a few tricks you may not know! But, above all have fun, because you don’t have to spend a million to look like it.