

Festive Fashion For Less

With the holiday season upon us, we have so many chances to visit with family, friends and co-workers. Parties are the norm this time of year and it's always a good idea to take this opportunity to look our absolute best. This doesn't mean buying a new outfit for every occasion, but adding a few bold items to what we already have. I have tips and ideas that are both stylish and inexpensive using the fabulous array of items available at the Goodwill Store and Donation Center!

Cocktail Parties

Cocktail parties call for a more glamorous, dressy look. If you don't own a basic black fitted dress now is the time to find one. For these types of parties it is appropriate to show a little skin, or décolletage, but keep the look classy! Going for a more basic dress will allow you to dress it with accessories for the various parties you'll attend. Try layering gold necklaces and chains with pearls for a "Chanel" look. Keep your hosiery and shoes black. Allow your accessories to be the star! Sparkle is definitely O.K. here as well, so look in the stores for beaded, sequined or shiny handbags, belts, scarves, shawls or shoes to go with your basic dress. A red or blue dress could work too, but you'd have to be more careful with the accessory choices. ALERT!!! ACCESSORIES ARE THE EASIEST WAY TO UPDATE ANY LOOK!



Work Parties

When attending a yuletide party with your employer and co-workers now is not the time to let your wild side show! Keep the look dressy, yet professional with separates like a skirt or slacks with a blouse and sweater, or a jacket. You can make the look festive by wearing a jewel toned blouse, or if you prefer a bright jacket with more neutral separates. This time it is about letting one item of apparel make the statement. Jewelry should be classic and understated, like gold hoops and necklace with a small pendant. Men should wear a nice sport coat with belted khakis or dress pants. Although a tie isn't a requirement here, it is a party after all! Do not wear jeans!



House Parties

House parties with friends, family and neighbors are a different story. Jeans and more casual attire are acceptable unless the party giver sets a dress code. Now would be a great time to wear a wonderful, colorful sweater with your jeans and heels ladies. A really frilly, fitted blouse would also be ideal, with a ribbon tie at the neck or a brilliant silk scarf. For the guys, a layered look with a sweater, or sweater vest and dress shirt with funky tie would also be very cool. Go out of your comfort zone and have a little fun because Goodwill stores have an amazing selection of ties that can add just the right touch of festive color to your ensemble.



Lounging by the fire, or in front of the widescreen TV can sometimes consist of moth-eaten sweatpants and stained tee shirts, but I know that we could do much better! Simply look around at the store and you'll see lots of ideas for comfortable, creative, holiday at home looks. Why not get a nice camisole, and pair it with some cotton slacks and a cardigan sweater? How about some cotton drawstring slacks and casual sweaters with tee shirts for the guys?



For just a few bucks, you could look like a million with just a little imagination and a few sprinkles of Goodwill Holiday Magic!