

The long and **SHORT** of it!

Let's face it, there is nothing like feeling a nice summer breeze and the sun on your legs. That's why I thought we would get a little more in depth on summer's favorite piece of apparel—the short. Basically shorts are just cut off pants and slacks. The rules for wearing them get a little tricky during the swelter of the warm weather. No matter what type we wear, remember the rules of proportion and fit. While shorts are primarily for casual wear, they literally take on all kinds of variations based on our lifestyles and figures! I know that many of us have seen fashion mistakes that we do not want to repeat for ourselves, so let's discuss the ups and downs of shorts wearing!



Bermuda shorts – knee length shorts, these are the most common type, and can be made of a variety of materials. Anything from denim, to madras plaid cotton can be seen every summer. Slightly tailored and not expansively wide legged they take you from town to country with ease. They are flattering to larger people because they skim, but don't restrict the leg. Worn with fitted t-shirts, tank tops, and polo's they are the workhorses of a warm weather wardrobe. Tip: avoid pleated shorts, as this only accentuates any paunch you may have in the midsection!



Cargo shorts – sound exactly like what they are: cut off cargo pants! They feature roomy and some would say “bulky” pockets on the thighs and are made of khaki and cotton twills alike. Hearty enough to take wear and tear, yet stylish when done in an unusual fabric like camouflage. If you were heavy on the bottom, I would steer clear of these, as they will add more bulk to your lower half.



Capri pants – calf length tapered pants. These are also known as “clam diggers or pedal pushers” and are a more fashion forward look. They come across as a bit dressier than other types of shorts, and don’t expose as much leg. If you are on the larger side look for a fit that does NOT taper at the calf, as this will make the hips look larger. When worn with a floaty top and some pretty sandals or wedges, you’re good to go for an evening out or city shopping. If you haven’t noticed yet, the male version of this look, dubbed “manpri’s” has been with us for a few seasons.



Board shorts – knee length swimming shorts, also called “jams” primarily used by surfers— they feature tropical or graphic prints, drawstring waist and loose legs. They probably got their name from shortening of “pajamas”. These may also be worn “hip hop” style low on the hips for street side flair.



River guide shorts – these tough customers were created for outdoor extreme sports, kind of a cross between walking shorts and a swimsuit. They may actually have drain holes in the pocket or netting for keeping valuables safely while enjoying your favorite water activity. Great for vacations and leisure time activities that involve being in and around water.



Hot pants – tight fitting short shorts that cover the rear but are high on the hips. Every summer we see people wearing these, who really should not. Unless you have terrific legs and a toned body, these can have a “sleazy” effect. Please make sure you are aware of how you look from every angle when trying on this style. Many times these are worn with high heels and a blouse for a sophisticated look.



As with any trip to your favorite Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center, make sure you know what you need, and what will flatter you. If you happen to be handy with a sewing machine, you just may want to cut off some pants or slacks that catch your eye and create your own custom look. Summer is about being comfortable and fashionable, no matter what lengths you go to where shorts are concerned!

