

Skirting The Issue

The skirt is an indispensable part of any smart gal's wardrobe. There are so many varieties, lengths and fabrications that it can literally boggle the mind. Let's just discuss a few of the more popular skirt choices. We will also cover who should wear them, as well as what to wear them with. When it comes to separates to add to your wardrobe Goodwill Stores and Donation Centers are the place to be!

When it comes to skirt length, remember the rule that if you have proportionally good legs you can show them off, if they are on the heavy side, or have varicose veins or worse, do not! So generally speaking, straight or narrow skirts look best just above the knee, and softer more full skirts look best when they flow a bit longer. Any hemline on any skirt that hits at the heaviest part of your leg will make you look HEAVIER! So larger legged gals would do better to hem their skirts lower at the narrowest part of the calves.

PENCIL SKIRT: This is a narrow skirt that defines the waist and hips without much fullness. Sleek and tailored, this can be worn by most body types for an elongated look. Best with fitted blouses, and more body conscious knits. Wear with a large belt to bring attention to the waist and make it look smaller.



A-LINE SKIRT: This shape can be kind to heavier hips, but may look matronly if worn too long in length. Best when made in more sturdy fabrics like cotton, denim, or wool to keep the structure.



PLEATED SKIRT: Usually we think of this style as a “schoolgirl look”. Many private schools make pleated skirts part of their uniform for students. Also seen in contemporary sportswear in longer lengths past the knee. Depending on the fabric, this style can go from summer cottons to winter wools.



MINI SKIRT: This is a skirt popularized in the late 60’s and is still with us today. Worn by women of all ages, but primarily a youthful look. Best on those with shapely legs, since they will be on total display! But avoid the look if you are over 30, unless you are Tina Turner!



MAXI SKIRT: Popular in the 70’s also known as the “Hostess Skirt”. This is a floor length skirt with a fitted waistband, worn with slim knit tops, or tailored blouses. This is an “evening only” look for taller women, as the long length tends to overwhelm the petite figure. Sharon Stone popularized this look when she wore a long skirt with a man’s white button down shirt to an awards show.



SKORT: Hybrid pairing of shorts, with front flap to make it look like a skirt. This is a sporty look best for the athletic type. Worn with polo shirts, and preppy button downs for a collegiate look, or with a turtleneck and wide belt for a “mod” look. These also encompass sport skirts, by famous brands like Adidas, for runners, tennis players, and athletically inclined fashionistas.



WRAP SKIRT/ SARONG: They are very effective cover-ups for heavyish hips and thighs, derrieres and legs. With the coming Spring/Summer season upon us shortly, they are a natural for the beach, casual dining, or just running errands around town. You may even put them over leggings and tights to give them a new look. Depending on what fabric they’re made of they can go with everything from a t-shirt and sandals, to halter top and high heels!



A great and stylish wardrobe is built on pieces, with a selection of skirts being just part of the fashion story. So start assembling your chapters, and write your own book using all the fabulous fashion items you will encounter at the Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center near you.