

Color Me Amazing!

Have you ever been to a friend's home and noticed that all her rooms were white? Most likely she suffers from a common malady—fear of color. Many of us feel the same way when it comes to infusing our wardrobe with color. How many times have you seen someone wearing something in a garish hue that only a clown could pull off? This experience can be so traumatic that it relegates us to the bland and safe. Remember, you need not dress from head to toe in flame red to make an impression.

With that in mind, take a look at your wardrobe with a careful eye. Do you find yourself staring at a sea of tired grey, khaki and black? If so, you are ready for a color intervention. Color, texture and pattern are of paramount importance when it comes to great style. Thankfully, there is a Goodwill store nearby with all the elements you'll need to make your fashion world a little brighter.

But how do you determine what colors look good on you? First, take your skin tone and hair color into consideration. Take note that warm skin tones tend to have yellow undertones, while cool ones have blue. These undertones can be subtle but here's a simple rule of thumb— if you have golden skin or appear sallow then you have warm skin tones. If you have slight ruddiness or red cheeks then you have cool tones. Another easy way to determine what color looks good on you is by your eye color. Notice the little flecks around the iris of the eye. These colors are what we could call complementary to your own unique chemistry and they also reflect what looks good next to the skin.

For example, "cool" people have a lot of contrast between their hair color, eye color and skin tone and will look best in intense deep, rich colors. "Warm" people have an earthy tone quality to their hair color, eye color and skin tone and will look best in rich golden and earthy colors.

Do you have any of these tones in your wardrobe? If not, here is the place to start. Buy a scarf, sweater, or blouse in a color that works for you and pair it with some of your neutrals. If you'd like to experiment with pattern, look for items in those same tones, but keep them on the smaller side. Now you're on your way to infusing color into your wardrobe.

If you are still a bit hesitant about color and what looks best on you, why not opt for a brightly colored



accessory? A wonderful belt, bag or pair of shoes can do wonders to revitalize even the blandest outfit. For example instead of matching black shoes to everything, go for a pair of red patent leather, and wear them with skirts, slacks and jeans. Don't forget that mixing textures like silk with wool and fuzzy with smooth will make you stand out as a trendsetter!

For you brave ones, try a boldly patterned blouse with your workday duds instead of a boring white one. Once you are confident with that look, try mixing various patterns. The key here is to mix and match different combinations and to check whether you are getting the balance right, whether one element is overwhelming the rest of the outfit, or if the whole scheme is overpowering. If so, simply stick to one patterned item and gradually progress to pattern mixing with care.

Keep in mind that when shopping for these pieces you will have to know what you will wear them with in your existing wardrobe. Make a list of items that you feel could perk up what you already own. If you buy an item and have nothing to pair it with, it will just sit there in your closet!

When it comes to style, color and pattern very important so don't be afraid to express yourself! Stop by a Goodwill store today to find great items that will express your own personal tastes and ideas—let people know a little about your fashion world and how you see it.

