

Professional Dress Tips for Men

Color, Cut and Other Considerations

In the professional world, looking the part is every bit as important as acting the part. A professional look is achieved by selecting clothes, accessories and hair style that work together to create the desired image. To project a proportioned silhouette, wearing clothes that **fit properly** is critical. Choose styles and cuts that maximize your strong points and camouflage the weak aspects of your physique.

Color

Color can be used to enhance your appearance. Hold different colors up to your face. Notice that some colors make you look tired or washed out. Others make you look vibrant and energetic. Find your best colors and build a coordinated wardrobe around them.

- **Bright and Light Colors**—make you appear larger.
- **Dark and Dull Colors**—make you appear smaller.
- **Dark Shades** (grey, navy blue and black) are “authoritative” and formal.
- **To appear taller**—wear one color outfits. Avoid wearing cuffed trousers.
- **To appear slimmer**-- match belt, pants, shoes and socks. Wear pleated trousers. Avoid double breasted jackets.

Suit Jackets



- The best fabric choices for men’s suits are worsted wools and gabardines.
- Sleeves should expose a half inch to an inch of your shirt cuff.
- The width at the shoulders should allow the fabric to flow smoothly from shoulder to sleeve. The drape from shoulder to shoulder should always be smooth.
- Fasten the top two buttons of a three button jacket. A double breasted suit should always be fully buttoned.

Shirts

- A crisp, white, button-down, long sleeve cotton shirt is a staple of a man’s professional wardrobe. Pinstripe and other light color shirts are also considered professional.
- Sleeves should end at your wrist bone where the wrist breaks with the hand.
- Undershirts are an absolute necessity in a business setting to keep perspiration from damaging your clothes. Once a shirt is stained or becomes dingy from repeated laundering, it should be replaced.

Ties

- Select ties of medium width in a silk or silk blend.
- The point of your tie should just touch the top of your belt buckle.
- Men with strong facial features should wear striped ties.
- Dotted and paisley ties go well with a round or baby face.
- Select a tie of the same color as your shirt or suit but in lighter or darker shade.
- With patterned shirts, it is better to wear a solid color tie.
- Dark blue and dark red are the safest color choices for ties.
- The smaller the pattern and the darker the tie, the more authoritative the look.

Trousers

- Trousers should sit at the waist.
- The drape over your lower body should always be smooth (no bulges or horizontal creasing).
- The length of your pants should cover top quarter of your shoes and clear your heel.



Shoes

- Lace top shoes are considered the most formal and should always be worn for interviews. Wing tips are more formal than oxfords.
- Match your shoes to your pants.
- Polish your shoes and replace worn heels. You would be surprised how many people will judge you by the quality of your shoes and how well you maintain them.
- Wear socks that blend with your slacks and shoes and completely cover your calf.

