

CHAPTER FOUR

How to Dress for the Interview

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

“Dress for Success” is a phrase that has been around for some time now. Yet, if you think about it there is a lot of truth in what is being stated. If you are in the market for a job then you are in essence putting out a brand that is “You.” The key is how well you portray that brand – will it get you the job!

In job-hunting, first impressions are critical. The first thing the employer sees when greeting you is your attire; so, you must make every effort to have the proper dress. To maximize your chances you can't go wrong dressing conservatively. Below you will find several helpful thoughts about “Dressing for Success.”

MEN CLOTHING DON'TS FOR THE JOB INTERVIEW

- Don't wear white socks
- Don't wear a brown suit. This is usually unacceptable.
- Don't wear a suit that has large pinstripes.
- Don't wear a v-neck style undershirt since the neckline may show.
- Don't let your tie extend below your belt.

MEN CLOTHING DON'TS FOR CASUAL DRESS ON THE JOB

- Don't wear loud, bright colors such as greens, reds or purples. These colors can be used sparingly as accents or accessories, such as ties.
- Don't wear jeans or t-shirts
- Don't wear ripped jeans.
- Don't wear sports clothes with emblems. Avoid clothing with large designer labels.
- Don't wear sleeveless shirts.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR BOTH SITUATIONS

- Don't smell bad.
- Don't wear facial jewelry.

MEN CLOTHING DO'S FOR THE JOB INTERVIEW

- Do wear a tie. Make certain that it is knotted firmly, not loosely around the shirt collar.
- Do wear a two piece matched suit. The following colors are acceptable: navy, dark grey, or black.
- Do wear quality silk ties.

- Do wear leather, lace-up or slip-on business shoes, preferably black or cordovan.

MEN CLOTHING DO'S FOR CASUAL DRESS ON THE JOB

- Do wear buttoned shirts, leaving only one or two buttons open at most, not showing chest. Polo shirts can be acceptable, but needs to be tucked in.
- Do wear slacks that are similar to Dockers and other makers of cotton material pants or nice looking dress synthetic pants.
- Do wear collared shirts along with pants with belt loops.
- Do wear belts.
- Do remember that casual day attire should still reflect a professional look.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR BOTH SITUATIONS

- Do wear clean, ironed clothes.
- Do wear shirts that are yellow, white or light blue.
- Do empty pockets – beware of bulging keys and tinkling change.
- Do inspect for tags, dangling threads, etc.
- Do wear dark socks that are mid calf length. You don't want any skin to show.
- Do match your belt color to your shoe color.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING DON'TS FOR THE JOB INTERVIEW

- Don't wear tops with large prints or bright colors.
- Do not wear open toe or open heel shoes or heels higher than 2 inches.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING DON'TS FOR CASUAL DRESS ON THE JOB

- Don't wear jeans, denim outfits, tank tops, shorts or other very casual clothing.
- Don't confuse club attire with business attire. If you would wear it to a club, you probably shouldn't wear it in a business environment.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR BOTH SITUATIONS

- Don't wear it if you are in doubt about wearing it.
- Don't wear anything too short, too tight or too sexy. Skirt length should be no more than one inch above the knee.
- Don't wear a low-cut or see-through blouse.
- Don't wear big jewelry or hair ornaments.
- Don't wear facial jewelry.
- Don't have extremes of nail length and polish color.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING DO'S FOR THE JOB INTERVIEW

- Do wear a tailored pant/skirt suit
- Do wear closed-toe pumps. Regardless of what is in style, avoid extremes; no stilettos or chunky platforms. Make certain you can walk comfortably in your shoes.
- Do wear a tailored blouse in a color or small print that coordinates nicely with your suit.

WOMEN'S CLOTHING DO'S FOR CASUAL DRESS ON THE JOB

- Do wear tailored sweaters and sweater sets are appropriate business casual choices for women. Cotton, silk, and blends are appropriate.
- Do wear fabrics that are crisp; colors that are generally solid: navy, black, gray, brown and khaki are always safe bets.
- Do wear flat shoes if you prefer, but avoid sandals. Do remember that casual day attire should still reflect a professional look.
- Do remember that casual day attire should still reflect a professional look.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR BOTH SITUATIONS

- Do wear clean, ironed clothes.
- Do match your purse color with your shoes. The purse should also be small and simple.
- Do keep makeup conservative.