



Own a catwalk-worthy wardrobe

We share five clever tips for ruling the world, one outfit at a time

1 Clear out your cupboard

You can't think clearly about what to invest in unless you have a neat, practical base. Fashion designer, stylist and consultant Dominique Luck says: 'Divide your clothes into three piles: those you wear often; those you never wear; and the necessary basics,' she says. 'Throw away any items that don't fit or are stained and faded. If you can't repair, alter or reinvent an item, it must go. It can be hard to toss things but it's all part of creating movement in your wardrobe so that you can begin to look at it as a functioning whole.'

2 Work out what suits you

What Beyoncé can pull off is not necessarily going to work for you. 'Book a colour-palette and body-analysis session with a personal stylist,' advises image consultant Marilize de Clercq. 'Remember that "most expensive" doesn't always translate to "best dressed". Take your lifestyle into consideration before falling in love with impractical pieces. Lastly, don't just give in to trends – some may not suit your personality and you could end up either looking uncomfortable or never wearing the item.'

3 Splurge on the classic items

Invest in classic items and add interest with trendy accessories, says Milisuthando Bongela, fashion blogger and co-owner of Mememe. 'Fast fashion loses its appeal once the next fad comes along so buy a skirt or a pair of trousers that will last a couple of years and supplement it with fashion-forward accessories.'

4 Buy clever, not just cute

Most of us can't afford a new wardrobe every season, so it's important to buy clever pieces that work with what you already own. 'Buy good pieces, like leather shoes, on sale – they're elegant and won't restrict your wardrobe,' says De Clercq. 'Then go to cheaper retailers for fun pieces like a peplum skirt – but be aware that by the time these go on sale, the trend is often over.' Bongela suggests asking for discounts at stores if you buy more than one item and swapping with friends.

5 Make a list

'Writing a shopping list will help you focus, which will make your purchases more focused. The result is you'll feel more confident about your image,' says Luck. Don't forget about 'link' pieces – the accessories and basics that complete an outfit – and any new makeup you may like to complement your look. 'Jot down these missing items before you set off and you'll return home with a cohesive capsule to-die-for wardrobe.' ✂



Fashion designer Suzaan Heyns:

'Dressing well is about feeling good about the way you present yourself to the world.'

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