



The Clothes In Your Closet Make Your Career
By Dawn E. Waldrop

As you look back this past year at your career, now is a good time to re-evaluate your direction. Are you aspiring for a promotion? Do you have the desire to make more money? Will your job create more opportunities for you to be visible to the public? Are you or will you be in any sales or presentation situation?

Now, step into your closet and do a serious evaluation of your professional attire. Is seventy percent of your clothes only clothes you wear to work? If not, it needs to be, if you work full time.

FIRST: Remove any clothes or accessories you have not worn in a year. No excuses like "I'll lose weight" or "I paid a lot of money for that outfit." Two things will happen. You will be able to see what you have to wear and you will see what you need to buy.

SECOND: If something needs to be cleaned put it in the cleaning pile. Set a day to take those items to the dry cleaner.

THIRD: If something needs a repair put it in the repair pile. Set time aside to make the repairs or take them to a tailor.

FOURTH: If an outfit does not fit properly have it tailored. If it can not be tailored then put on your shopping list to replace that item. E.G. The shirt sleeves have shrunk over time. Not only do you feel uncomfortable in something that does not fit, it does not look professional.

FIFTH: Seriously look at the type of clothes you wear to work. Do they send the message of "professional"? Or "Have my clothes gotten too casual?" Promotion or income opportunities tend not to come our way dressing too casual.

Most professionals still need business suits in their closet. How many is determined by the industry, your aspiring position with the company and your clientele. If you are in a casual environment give consideration to upgrading your casual attire. Long sleeves create a higher level of professionalism. Does your company have logo t-shirts, sweatshirts or sweaters you can wear on casual day? Choose the sweater over the t-shirt or sweatshirt if in a leadership position.

Re-evaluating your attire to meet your career goals is quite an eye-opener. All of a sudden you become aware that your clothes may not be communicating how you desire others to perceive you. Many of you will find you need to build that professional wardrobe to seventy percent of the closet. Others of you will find you have too many clothes you never wear. By removing them you eliminate clutter, create more space and feel more organized.

This experience will create a powerful awareness for you. Next time you go shopping for your work attire you will find yourself choosing clothes to meet your career goals. Others will notice the subtle yet very powerful difference in your professional appearance.

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A leading expert on attire in the workplace she motivates professionals how to present their best image for success through keynote presentations, half/full day training sessions, one-on-one coaching & personal consultations.

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