

Dressing Better Series

CORPORATE CASUAL: YOUR GUIDE TO CHOOSING COMFORT BUT KEEPING THE CLOUT

CASUAL, NOT COMPLICATED: SIMPLE TIPS TO KEEPING IT SIMPLE

A hot trend today in Men's fashion is a more casual approach to dress. Called "corporate casual," it's redefining what is professionally appropriate in menswear around the office and in the boardroom. From socks to shirts to belts and back again, going casual creates more clothing choices—and confusion.

With its emphasis on more relaxed, casual styles and fabrics, dressing down is raising questions about what exactly is fashionably acceptable for men who may be eager to shed the pinstripes but not the power that a formal business suit conveys.

BUILDING THE THIRD WARDROBE

We want to show you that you can lose the corporate uniform without losing your authority. There are exciting, tasteful possibilities between formal business attire and your sporting best.

To help you assemble the correct wardrobe, we offer some basic tips that make the complicated simple. After all, making the right decisions is what corporate leadership is all about.

A FIRM FOUNDATION—THE BASICS

Shoes: The wingtips and sneakers take the day off. Try suede lace-ups, lug-soled nubucks, low-ankle boots, or pebble-finished footwear. Alligator shoes will have your staff virtually snapping to attention when you arrive—just in case they forget who's the boss.

Socks: Show your personality with exotic patterns. But whatever your stripe, socks should come at least to mid-calf.

Trousers: Leave the jeans or grunge for the weekend. Soft fabrics such as flannel, corduroy, silk and cotton, brush or twill cotton, rayon and linen or one of the new micro-fibers are best.

Shirts: Knit shirts in better fabrics such as pima cotton, cashmere, merino wool, or combed or mercerized cotton work best. Try a mock turtleneck, well-made polo (no logos or insignia), or crew neck, under your suit or sport coat. Also, better sport shirts in silk, tencel or and cotton can add a nice look to your wardrobe.

Ties: Ties are still popular, but try a softer look with muted colors and textured patterns.

Suits and Sport Coats: A soft construction suit or sports coat does double duty for the workweek. On Monday, wear it with a white shirt and tie; on Friday, dress it down with a polo, mock turtleneck or crewneck shirt.

Belts: Your belt should be compatible with your shoes and have a slightly wider strap and chunkier buckle than your dress belt; try a woven strap. As with the shoes, alligator belt announces your authority.

WRAPPING THINGS UP

Sweaters: Lightweight cotton sweaters that aren't too bulky are a nice touch in winter.

Leather Jackets: Lightweight soft leather jacket can add a handsome layered look.

CAPRA & CAVELLI
M A N ' S C L O T H I N G

