



JMELOELLIS FASHION TIPS

**(HOW TO DRESS
EXPENSIVE WITHIN YOUR BUDGET)**

www.jmeloellisclothing.com

Keeping up with the ever-changing trends in fashion can be an expensive affair. Every year it seems like clothing taste changes so much that last season's clothes feel outdated and frumpy. Complicate that with different clothing needs as the seasons changes, and staying fashionable can seem like an intimidating task.

Luckily, fashionistas know how to put outfits together for any season and still maintain their budget. The process of looking stylish and seasonal doesn't have to bend your wallet. As long as you know what pieces to select, and when and where to get them.

Here are five tips for staying fashionable within your budget.



Look for Staples First

The first tip to building your wardrobe is to make sure you have enough basic pieces to serve a variety of different outfits. This means, looking for clothes that are neutral, free of complicated patterns and easy to pair with other clothes. These staples should include plain t-shirts with simple necklines in multiple colors, (but you'll want neutral colors like white, beige and black), a pair of form-fitting blue jeans in your favorite cut, simple shoes, a decent jacket or blazer in a dark color and a pair of black pants.

This list is not exhaustive of course, and your location can also determine what's necessary in your collection. These staples should be items that you can interchangeably mix to fill out your daily outfits.

Sell or Swap with Friends

Rather than give away unwanted clothes to thrift stores or throwing them away, see if your friends are interested in them, then ask if there's anything in their wardrobe they don't want anymore. Swapping clothes with your friends can give new life to unwanted clothes and help everyone pick out new pieces to freshen up their wardrobe.

Maybe your friend picked up something nice and in season, but found that it just didn't flatter them the way they expected. These can be an excellent resource for fun and creative additions to your wardrobe.

Look For Sales And Clearance Items

The best way to keep your budget low is to get your clothes from resale or outlet stores, rather than straight from the rack. Many fantastic garments end up in these stores due to the inability to move product, or sometimes because a store needed to make space for new goods. Meaning you'll find great clothes at low prices in my favorite discount stores, Marshalls, Tj Maxx, Ross, Century 21, among others where you can find designer clothes cheaper than anywhere else.

Many outlets stores like Nordstrom Rack, Marshall's and Tj Maxx will also let you shop for cheap dresses online, where prices have been slashed for out-of-season clothing. It also gives you a chance to stock up on especially well-priced goods that may have once had triple-digit price tags.



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Browse Thrift Stores

Along with looking for sales and clearances, your clothes can also come from thrift stores, including Goodwill, The Salvation Army and your local thrift shop. These places hold an eclectic mix of clothes donated by those who lost interest in them for a variety of reasons.

Perfectly good clothing will end up here for an outrageous low price. I once purchased an elegant prom shoes easily worth \$150 for no more than \$20 from a thrift store. Thrifting, although more frustrating and difficult than shopping in a regular store, can turn up absolute gems to add to your collection for rock-bottom prices.



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Get Creative With Combinations

The best way to keep your outfits fresh is to swap out small pieces or parts of your outfit. This is why you want staples, and why you should build up a generous collection of accessories such as cardigans, scarves, belts and jewelry that can add flair and a sense of change to your outfits. Changing your blazer to a cardigan and your heels to sneakers can take an outfit from work-friendly to weekend-outing. Think of outfits as entire combinations, and each item you swap in or out can give a new look.

Staying fashionable doesn't have to break the bank. Watching for sales, monitoring your local outlets and thrift stores and letting friends breathe new life into your wardrobe can keep you well-dressed without racking up a debt. Get creative with your wardrobe building to live the fashionista life on a budget.

You will want (2 or 3) nice black skirts, a pencil skirt, or slight A-line, printed skirt and one that is more airy and fun. Dress shirts for women are more popular than ever. You will want to have some variety here. I recommend buying shirts that fit your shoulders and arm length properly and have a bit of lycra or stretch fabric so you can move freely.

Keeping winter and summer colors in your closet is important to any business wardrobe. You will need a black, navy and lighter color suit such as charcoal for the summer. You can wear your blazer with your skirts too, no need to buy a skirt suit. When buying shoes keep the same tip in mind, find at least three comfortable pairs of shoes, perhaps a pair of flats, and two pairs of heels, one lower and the other a higher pump style. I don't believe in having all the colors of the rainbow in my shoe rack, especially when on a budget. Black and brown always work, throw in a pair of beige color for fun. The overall idea here is to have classic pieces that won't go out of style and that will last for years to come. Look for sales, clearances and wander through thrift stores to find what you need to build your basic wardrobe.

I can't tell you how many things I've been able to snag there. The key is to go into a wealthy or high income area. Often people with a lot of money can discard things faster for new items such as great sweaters, blazers, handbags, you name it! My last purchase there was actually a pair of designer sunglasses that retails for \$150 and I picked up for \$39! I bought a \$80 pair of ColeHann brown boots that were never worn for \$16!! I'll admit, you have to make some time to sift through a lot of duds till you find a few keepers, but it is well worth it. Buy items that have their original bold color, no fading! Make sure there are no holes, or stains. If there is a small area that is inconspicuous, by all means grab the item if you can fix it. You can also find some fun handbags, belts and jewelry.



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