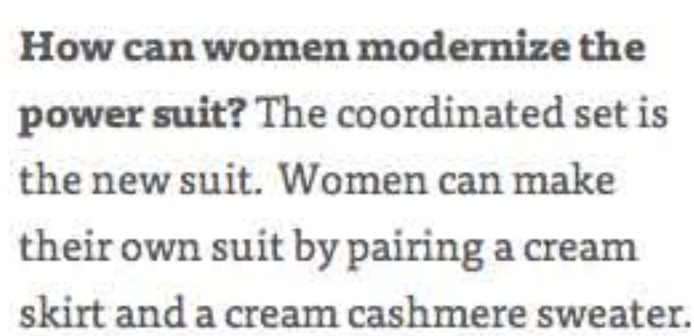




What is the biggest workwear no-no? For women, it's over-exposure. Exposed bra straps, excessive cleavage, visible panty lines. And for men it's clothing that's wrinkled, stained or ripped — the fraternity boy look. Some guys look like they've slept in their clothes! Unless you're on the campaign trail, there's no reason you should be sleeping in your clothes.



Is it possible to look sharp and be comfortable at the same time? Structure to your clothes is what gives you that presentable look. Men's jackets should not be oversized. I'll have clients put on blazers and contort their arms to tell me it's too tight. "Look Lauren! I can't muscle up my arms and cross them sideways." And I just ask them if that's something they need to do at work. Other than shaking hands or doing a half hug or speaking at a podium, you don't really need to do gymnastics.

Is it appropriate to let your work clothes express your personality? I think you want to know going into a job how you want to be perceived. Do you want to be seen as a fashion enthusiast or a kooky person who wears a different trend every single day? The latter draws the wrong kind of attention. A great fit and standout accessories will do the opposite.

You encourage readers to dress for the job they want. I tell my clients to lead in style. You can typically identify who the leader is when you

This is what I call executive casual," Rothman says of Wright's outfit. He wears a suede blazer by Corneliani (\$1,395), shirt by Burberry (\$275), sweater by Tahari (\$248), Gucci bag (\$1,675), Ferragamo belt (\$310) and Saks Fifth Avenue Men's Collection loafers (\$298).

walk into a meeting. So much of that has to do with executive presence. The way you dress should never indicate that you are a level below someone else.

How can men avoid the D.C. “uniform” of khakis and a blue shirt? Add color. We’ve gotten plenty of private sector guys who will wear pink and purple. Still, even though brighter colors have gone mainstream, you’d be hard-pressed to find any of that on the Hill.

How lax is too lax for casual Fridays? The biggest misconception? That causal Friday means you can dress like it's the weekend. Really, it's one step down from what you wear Monday through Thursday, and one step up from what you wear on Saturday and Sunday with your kids or to the flea market. You're not going to the mall or for a drink with a friend — you are still going to work.

Have more style questions? Rothman is hosting a fashion show and book signing at the Park Hyatt Hotel on Sept. 30 from 6-9 p.m. Tickets (\$100- \$150) are available at knockoutabuse.com.

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