

What Works AT WORK!

Here's how to pull off three big trends at the office—plus expert advice on dressing for any environment and more

PLAID PANTS

In an understated palette, they're on-trend without being too bold for a casual office. Wear with a basic sweater, go-everywhere bag and flats, and a cool necklace to up the style factor.

H&M

Polyamide-wool-blend sweater, \$59.95; hm.com for stores

Sole Society

"Britt" leather bag, 7"H x 11.5"W x 4"D, \$129.95; solesociety.com



DKNY "Cordovan Leather Pointy Flats," \$125; dkny.com for stores



Tommy Hilfiger "Plaid Pants" in cotton with faux leather detail, \$79.50; macys.com

darker colors are an easy-to-wear take on the trend

Forever 21
"Bejeweled Bib Necklace" in metal with faux gemstone detail, \$10.80; forever21.com



IF YOUR OFFICE IS... CASUAL

You can go more laid-back—but don't forget, it's still work!

Here are some tips:

1. Think simple but pulled-together

"You can wear some weekend staples, like loafers or boyfriend jeans, as long as the rest of your outfit remains sophisticated," says Bridgette Raes, style expert.

2. Don't look too fashiony

"Limit pieces that are overly fashion-forward," says Lauren A. Rothman, stylist and author of *Style Bible: What to Wear to Work*. "Try not to mix too many prints and colors into the same outfit—you don't want to overdress."

3. Add fun jewelry

"A great statement necklace or cuff can take skinnies and a sweater up a notch," says Raes. "This way a casual outfit gets a kick."

TAP BUTTON FOR NETWORKING TIPS

NET-WORKING TIPS

Keep making new contacts

"Join a professional group or grab lunch with a coworker you don't know very well—many jobs are found through some form of networking," says Rothman.

Practice your "elevator pitch"

"You should be able to talk about your skills in a smart way in under 30 seconds," says Rothman.

Be sure to follow up

"Whenever someone takes the time to meet with you, send a thank-you note within 24 hours and circle back every 3 to 4 months," says Raes.

WORK STYLE

SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

Have an appropriate personal e-mail address

“Try one with just your first and last name,” says Raes. “With all social media handles, make sure you’d want to be associated with it in 10 years.”

Follow people in your field

“‘Like’ the company you work for on Facebook and follow sites, blogs and news blasts on Twitter that will keep you up-to-date,” says Raes. “It shows you’re interested in what’s happening in your industry.”

Consider buying a domain

“Purchasing your own website is inexpensive, and you can upload your résumé, bio and other info in one place,” says Rothman. “It usually will be the first thing people see when they Google you.”

IF YOUR OFFICE IS... CREATIVE

You want to look fashionable but not over-the-top. Here are some tips:

1. Don't go too sexy

“In creative fields, you can pull off going-out styles, like a shorter skirt or dress, as long as your top half is more covered up,” says Raes. “Sheer fabrics worn without another layer, big cutouts and open backs are too much for the office.”

2. Experiment with trends

“There’s an expectation that you’ll wear newer styles before they become mainstream,” says Raes. “It shows that you’re tapped in to what’s ‘now’—just stick to one or two pieces at a time.”

3. Have fun with the details

“Heels, bags and jewelry are another way to show off your style personality,” says Rothman. “Feel free to let them stand out.”

Vince Camuto
“Crystal Classic Bracelets” in metal with rhinestone detail, \$70 each; vincecamuto.com



Club Monaco
“Felicia Skirt” in polyester, \$149.50; clubmonaco.com



a satchel feels of-the-moment in cobalt blue with studs

Melie Bianco “Bade” faux leather bag, 10”H x 11.5”W x 5.5”D, \$119; meliebianco.com

Calvin Klein
Polyester-spandex blouse, \$69; macys.com for stores

Mcginn
Polyester-rayon-blend jacket, \$224; Two Birds, 415-285-1840

FOULARD-PRINT SKIRT

Make a stylish statement with a trendy patterned mini, balanced by a more classic jacket, plus accessories that are eye-catching without overdoing it.

French Connection
“Maresella” leather booties, \$150; piperlime.com



TAP BUTTON FOR SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS

* Melie Bianco From Aug. 16 to Sept. 13, enter “PSW20” at checkout for a site-wide discount.

WORK STYLE



COLOR-BLOCK DRESS

Give a subtle nod to the trend in a tweedy paneled sheath that hits right above the knee, then add accessories that are luxe but not fussy.

Dana Buchman
"Color Blocked Ponte Dress" in polyester-rayon blend, \$68; kohls.com



Citizen "Bella" stainless steel watch with white diamond detail, \$325; amazon.com

kitten heels are feminine and appropriate



Ivanka Trump "Walker" suede heels with leather detail, \$135; lordandtaylor.com



it's roomy enough for all your essentials, and the leather looks rich

Lauren Ralph Lauren
"Leather Double Zip Satchel," 11"H x 16"W x 7"D, \$298; macys.com for stores

IF YOUR OFFICE IS... CONSERVATIVE

You want to look sophisticated and professional but not boring. Here are some tips:

1. Get that perfect fit

"Tailoring is especially key here—you want your clothes to look fitted to your body, not too tight or too loose," says Rothman. "This environment requires more of a 'uniform,' especially if you're in the corporate world and limited to basic wardrobe pieces like a dress or suit."

2. Find styles that'll last more than one season

"Lean toward trends that have proven themselves, rather than ones that feel disposable," says Raes. "Refined options like colorblock dresses and kitten heels won't look outdated if you wear them a year from now."

3. Invest in understated accessories

"Choose timeless pieces in neutral shades that you can mix and match with most of your work wardrobe," says Raes. "Low-heeled pumps, a leather satchel and a classic watch are versatile go-tos."

BEAUTY TIPS

Go for a natural vibe

"It shouldn't take more than a few products," says Rothman. "Foundation, concealer, blush, mascara and a neutral lip gloss are the basics for a clean makeup look. If you don't have time for a manicure, get a quick buffing."

Pick a light scent

"You want to be mindful of your colleagues, so if you wear perfume, choose one that's not too overpowering," says Rothman.

Stash a mini emergency kit in your office drawer

"Travel-size hair spray, makeup-removing swabs and oil-absorbing blotting papers are great for staying fresh throughout the day," says Raes.

TAP
BUTTON
FOR
BEAUTY
TIPS