

Career Tips

Workplace Attire...Is It Too Casual?

The best advice I heard was “dress for the job that you aspire” and “dress how you want to be perceived.” You also do not need to be in a thousand dollar suit from Neiman Marcus to look good. Styles keep changing and will continue to recycle as the Traditionalists and Baby Boomers are retiring and Gen X and Y are moving up. But for the moment, you still have all four generations in the workplace.

Tips for dressing appropriately:

- If your office environment is more conservative, then you might want to leave those hot pink tights at home and for your weekend attire.
- Will you be seeing clients? If your clients see you, will their perception of you or your company change? Is this the image you want to portray, even on casual Friday?
- On casual day, still stay professional and not sloppy.
- Does it have sleeves? It should. Even a short-sleeved shirt or a sweater wrapped around your shoulders is much better than gaping holes in the blouse under your arms. This truly is a distraction in the workplace...even if your arms are toned.
- Are you being careful with the “toos?” Nothing should be too high (shoes), too low (shirts or slacks), too tight (same) or too short – whether it is a casual day or not.
- Are you paying attention to your feet? Watch out for dirty sneakers, mile-high heels, thigh-high boots and rubber flip-flops. Let’s hope none of these are part of your work wardrobe.

Casual can be good in the right atmosphere. The key is to never let casual take over professionalism.

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