

Holiday Fashion: What to Wear / What to Toss



Most Stilista clients have at least one work party, a couple of family parties and often friends' festivities or charity events. And we all have a New Year's party as well! Here is a handy summary, courtesy of your friendly Stilista style consultants that should help navigate all your occasions:

Family Parties

The key here is not to go too casual – it is a holiday after all! Jeans are ok, but you have to dress them up with a great button-down or cashmere sweater (guys) or a lacy bell-sleeve top or silky sweater and stunning jewelry (gals). Dress pants can work great as well with more casual tops like a polo-neck or turtleneck sweater (guys) or a comfy long sleeve knit tee in a color that brings out your eyes (ladies).

Corporate / Work Parties

The most important point here is to keep in mind your / your date's company's culture when picking out an outfit. Also assess the venue and pay attention to any stated dress code. If you work in a conservative industry, guys cannot go wrong with a suit and a dark dress shirt and cufflinks for a formal event, or a pair of dress pants, button down and lightweight v-neck sweater or corduroy sport coat layered on top. Ladies should keep in mind the high-waisted pencil skirt look with a silk blouse tucked

in as a great, classy-yet-dressy look. Wear it with patent-leather pumps to dress it up even more. If the venue is particularly fabulous, a dress may be in order, but steer clear of strapless or spaghetti-strap styles, or skirts shorter than right above the knee to stay professional. Keep in mind that these parties are often ways for your superiors to assess you in a different setting, and you want to shine and prove yourself just like you do at work.

Friendly Festivities

If you can't be yourself with your friends, who can you do that with? This is why when it comes to friends' parties, your style can definitely be more relaxed. Still, do remember that it is a special occasion, and try to add at least one dressy piece to the outfit: a crisp dress shirt or a funky argyle print v-neck sweater for guys, a great pair of stiletto boots or a bright shawl for the ladies. And please remember that there is no need to wear bell earrings, reindeer sweaters, santa hats or an outfit made up of only green and red – everyone knows what holiday it is!

Black Tie Parties

Benefits, fancy New Years' parties and even some corporate parties may specify a black tie or black tie optional dress. What to do, what to do? Well, first off, let us just say that the "optional" is a word you should ignore and treat the two like they are the same. If there is the option of black tie, why would you choose the less glamorous option? It is always better to be overdressed than underdressed. Always. Black tie for guys means a suit, or for supremely fancy occasions, even a tux. The suit should be dark: black, navy, dark brown and paired with a light dress shirt and tie. Try to think outside the box by picking a light pink or subtle striped shirt, as opposed to plain white and pick a tie with a pattern that complements the shirt color without being too "matchy-matchy". For "creative black tie" you can have a little more fun with the shirt / tie and be more creative with shoes as well. Black tie occasions are also where ladies can bring out the big guns! This is where full-length gowns come into play, just always think about old Hollywood glamour in terms of colors and textures and do not try to reinvent the wheel or reveal too much skin with large slits, too much cleavage or open backs. Also

keep in mind that details like rhinestones, crystals, beading, sequins should decorate the dress, not dominate it. If you are not into the full-length gowns, tea-length (mid-calf hem) is also ok, as long as it is a very dressy gown otherwise. Fabrics like silk, chiffon and velvet help garments look dressier.

We hope this helps get you dressed for the holidays, but if you still need help (because some occasions are just THAT important!), contact us for our ["A Festive Affair"](#) service where we will put together that outstanding outfit for you and make it a no-brainer! Check out all our new [Special Holiday Services](#) on our website. Hurry, they're only here until December 30th! **617.78.STYLE** - www.stilistaboston.com