

Accessories

Men have far fewer accessory options than women, but they still need plenty, so don't skip this essential part of his wardrobe: First, your male client will need at least seven ties – one to match each of his dress shirts. While he may get away without wearing a tie most days, he'll be thankful to have options when a more formal occasion calls for one – such as a job interview, date, or special event. Look for basic ties in a classic width, and avoid anything too wide or too narrow. Opting for solid or vertically striped ties in a combination of white, grey, and blue will allow for the most versatility and mix-and-matching. 100% silk ties are the easiest to dress up or down, but can be costly. Check out discount stores like Nordstrom Rack, Marshall's, and other "designer looks for less" shops for great bargains.

Your client is going to need at least two belts – one black and one brown. Look for a medium width belt in 100% genuine leather and always opt for a basic stainless steel buckle. You don't want to draw attention to the belt, rather it should accent his look and provide the finishing touch. Purchasing a belt in genuine leather will ensure a longer life and higher resistance to shape change. Plastic belts can easily become creased, bent, and cracked early in the belt's life.

Jewelry should be kept to a minimum for your male clients. It can be difficult for men to necklaces or bracelets. When in doubt, advise your client to avoid them. He will, however, need a sleek, classic watch to wear to work and on his personal time. Choose something with a simple black leather band and stainless steel face. It should be the appropriate size for his wrist, not too small and not too large. If your client tries to go for a digital watch, stop him. Digital watches should be saved for workouts and for those unable to read the hands on a clock.

Shoes 2-5 pairs of shoes

As you've probably already guessed, your male client is going to need one brown pair of shoes and another in black. These should be basic loafers, such as oxfords or monochromatic cap-toed loafers. Avoid anything with noticeable patterns or accents, like bright stitching or prints. Your client should be able to wear these shoes to work as well as with denim on weekends, so go for classic over trendy. Once again, try to choose something in genuine leather and remind your client to treat the leather with an appropriate shoe cream, protector spray, or oil on a regular basis to prolong the life of his shoes.

Your client may wish to purchase a third pair of shoes, but the type you select will depend on his lifestyle. If he attends a lot of formal events and rarely dresses down,



➔ MAN'S WATCH AND
MAN'S BELT COLLECTION

➔ MAN'S BLACK SHOES
ANDMAN'S BROWN SHOES

suggest a formal looking shoe – something such as a patent leather loafer or lace-up shoe. If he lives in denim come the weekend, perhaps he'd prefer a pair of boating shoes in a lighter leather or medium suede.

Recent College Graduate

When working with a recent college graduate, keep in mind he will likely have a more restricted budget than someone already in the working world with a regular income. Visiting discount and consignment stores can be a great way to build a professional wardrobe for him on a smaller budget, so become familiar with stores in your area. You may be able to work some of his existing pieces into a professional wardrobe, or you may have to start from scratch. If you both decide that many of the pieces he already owns simply won't cut it in the working world, aim for the minimum number of items mentioned in the wardrobe guide and know where you can and can't cut corners. For instance, he can probably get away with wearing two or three pairs of pants on a regular basis, but needs to have seven dress shirts. Wearing the same few shirts over and over is much more noticeable than restyling a limited number of trousers.

“Look for light weight material with medium drape”

Clients in Warm Climates

If you're working with a client who lives in a warm climate, or simply prefers to wear shorts instead of pants, keep his lifestyle and work environment in mind. It's rarely acceptable to wear shorts to work – no matter who your client is. With this in mind, you can opt for lighter weight pants and perhaps incorporate linen shirts into his work wardrobe if his office allows for more casual apparel. When shopping for suit jackets, look for those made with lightweight material that still offers medium drape. No matter what you do, never allow tuxedo shorts. Shorts are best saved for weekend and travel, and should never be considered formal regardless of the material from which they're cut.



How Personal Style Comes Into Play

When working with your male client, you'll want to keep his personal style in mind. For men, personal style can be worked in by focusing on an outfit's details – such as an interesting cufflink, polka dot sock, or printed tie. Weekend wear is easy to customize with personal touches, but when it comes to work wear he'll likely be expected to look a certain way and to follow some sort of dress code. For instance, his favorite band t-shirt could be layered under a fitted blazer and paired with denim for weekend but likely won't cut it at the work place.

While color and pattern choice can also help to express his personal style, be wary of purchasing anything too "of the moment" as it will limit the life of the garment. If his closet is full of similar pieces, his entire wardrobe, plus will become outdated much quicker.

