

Beauty & Style (Style)

20 Must-Have Style Accessories

By Tina Koenig

Pick up these essentials to complement clothing with attitude, sparkle and color!

We love all the hottest trends but sometimes less is more. Building a collection of “Grab and Go” perfect items that pull your ensemble together will save the stress of last-minute shopping.

Our suggestions for quality accessories will make your closet staples—the little black dress, a black blazer, a black pants, and a crisp, white shirt—pop with glamour. Add “wow” to your wardrobe with these 20 easy and essential accessories.

1) Bold Sunglasses

More than just a fashion accessory, sunglasses are a year-round necessity. They protect our eyes against the sun’s ultraviolet rays. Choose sunglasses that block 99% or 100% of UVB and UVA rays.

2) Statement Necklace

Instead of traditional pearls, try a big, dramatic necklace. Choose designs that marry your personal style with the latest color trends. Petite women should choose less bulk and opt for a pop of color. We recommended a short necklace for T-shirts and a longer length to dress up a blouse.

3) Nude Pumps

Want to add inches to your height? Nude colored pumps make anyone's legs look long. They also add a touch of elegance and coordinate with everything.

4) Sexy Strappy Sandal

The second shoe in your footwear arsenal should be a sexy strappy sandal with a mid-height heel that carries through day and night. If you're feeling bold, choose one in a standout shade like red.

5) Casual Leather Boots

A casual pair of leather boots is must have footwear. We love a riding boot that is flat or low-heeled. Styles with a touch of bling go fabulous with a pencil skirt or with skinny jeans tucked inside.

6) A Dressy Watch

Let's face it, evening bags are small. When deciding between a cell phone and make-up products your phone may need the evening off. A well-appointed watch will remind you not to stay out too late.

7) Black Evening Clutch

The simple black clutch, like the little black dress, if cared for properly will provide years of loyal service.

8) Neutral Evening Wrap with Glitz

Nothing spoils the look of a fabulous outfit faster than goose flesh up your arms. A lightweight wool wrap with a hint of sparkle will provide hours of comfort in a chilly place.

9) Belt Tightening?

Chain link belts are edgy and versatile. Choose a belt length that can cinch at the waist as well as hips when wearing low-rise jeans.

10) Shape Wear

Thigh slimmers and waist nippers – no, we are not talking about plastic surgeons. Shape-ware is for smoothing bumps and bulges. A full slip with built-in bra is the perfect choice under cocktail and evening dresses. For day and evening pants, try a waist-to-knee panty.

11) Printed Scarf

Scarves add panache and come in handy when you don't have an umbrella in the rain. Choose silky fabric that doesn't irritate the skin in a design that coordinates with at least 50% of the colors in your wardrobe. An animal print scarf works with jeans and office attire.

12) Vintage Brooch

Vintage accessories are fun to find in shops and spark interesting conversations. We love retro pins because they work on lapels and hold a scarf in place.

13) Opaque Hosiery

Shaving one's legs with less than adequate sleep leads to unsightly nicks. Keep black and brown opaque tights or hosiery on hand for days when grooming time evaporates.

14) Timeless Hat

A 1920's style cloche hat has a soft classic shape that flatters any face. Colorful felt or knit caps are fashion-forward and functional in winter. For summer, choose a floppy straw hat that provides sun protection.

15) Carry-all Handbag

A sturdy, large bag with a cross body strap provides secure hand's free operation, an essential for active moms who are always pulling something out like a magician's hat to keep children occupied. They have sections to hold a notebook computer or tablet, too.

16) Chunky Bracelet

Cheap chic is smart and stylish. Each season buy a modestly priced bracelet such as a wide-bangle in the season's hottest color to brighten your wrist and pull together your ensemble.

17) Polka Dot Hair Ribbons & Bows

Add a bit of whimsy to your wardrobe with polka dot hair accessories. Check out fabric stores for different colored ribbons and experiment with making bows in different sizes and shapes. Hand crafted hair accessories are the ultimate in personal style because you made them yourself.

18) Expandable Carry-on Luggage

Pack all your accessories inside a carry-on piece of luggage. Don't let a poor choice trip-up your travel plans. Think lightweight material, 360-degree multi-directional spinner wheels and handles for pulling and lifting. Before purchasing, read air carrier specifications.

High-tech fashion statements

You are no Plain Jane and neither are your personal digital devices? Ramp up your Geek Chic by working these essentials into your style mix:

19) Cell Phone Case

Today's decorated and embellished cell phone cases say a lot about who you are as a fashionista. And remember that style counts even when at the gym. To listen to your music when exercising, look for a brightly colored, waterproof cell phone case that straps to your arm. It keeps music close and protected from moisture.

20) Solar Charging Backpack

Ditch the diaper bag and opt for a renewable power source. Carry your child's belongings and have power for personal devices at all times.