

TIP SHEET FOR WEARING BLACK

Colorful pastels and bright colors are everywhere, but what about black? Wearing black from head to toe is an easy option but it can get a little dull. Black is a powerful statement but if it overpowers you then it can take away from your personal power – not the desired effect! With that in mind let's take a look at how you can make black work for you.

- ✓ Look for interesting details such as piping in contrasting fabrics, pleats, gathers, and smocking.
- ✓ Texture is key. Velvet, tulle, sheer silk or polyester, and taffeta go a long way to counter black's deadening effect on the skin.
- ✓ If black crepe is too stark and dull, opt instead for a tweed weave which will soften the look.
- ✓ Make sure the black tweed is of your color palette. Ex. Black and White for Winters, Black, and Ivory for Springs and Autumns, Black and Blush tones for Summers.
- ✓ Pattern size is critical based on your body type. Too large and you will look like a billboard advertisement, too small and you will look dazed. Really.
- ✓ Lace, which lets the skin peek through, will also soften the effect.
- ✓ Look for items that are striped, checked, or patterned. Pin or chalk stripes are the perfect way to break up a solid black pant, suit, or dress.
- ✓ When you put another color with black, the black can recede while the contrasting color advances which will make the black more subtle and less harsh.
- ✓ Take a good look at yourself in a full-length mirror when you are trying on solid black. Make sure that YOU are wearing the garment – and that it's not wearing you.
- ✓ You can accessorize black by wearing other colors, especially at your neck to break up the too solid effect.
- ✓ Patterns on black can make a big difference. One of Prada's best sellers ever was a black pleated dress with a splashy scarlet rose print. A Jacquard fabric works well in solid black or with another color.
- ✓ Add even more interest with accessories that have gloss or sheen. An alligator-patterned bag or a bright red heel can give a boost.
- ✓ Wear jewelry! Pearls on black, and any color of stones and diamonds on black are very chic.
- ✓ The eye is drawn to contrast so watch out for contrasting black with another color where the contrast lands at your trouble zone. Ex. Light top with black pants when the top ends at your generous hips.
- ✓ Show some skin. A neckline below the collarbone will help lessen black's shadowing effects on your neck and face.

Black can be a real statement: elegant, exclusive, mysterious, or just really boring. You have to put forth some effort in choosing items in black that have both style and sass. Don't forget to accessorize! Bold jewelry works especially well on a black background.