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Summer's Coming – Dress for Business, not the Beach

You've seen it – the tank tops, muscle shirts, shorts and the flip flops. Too much skin showing? This is what the workplace sometimes becomes in the summertime. In some industries, this is totally acceptable, in others, not so much.

Just to set the record straight – what people wear should have no connection to how well they are able to do their job. However, sometimes this just does not matter. You have probably heard of the young woman called upon to rush a critical report up to the Executive Suite for a meeting the president was having with clients. She did great – in just minutes she was slipping through the door with the expected report.

Later that same day she was fired! Why, because she came to the board room with no nylons on. Terrible you say! Remember, you never know who you are going to end up being in front of on any given day. Clients always expect professional dress.



First, consider the industry you are in – office jobs where you may end up meeting the public calls for dress that is a little more professional. Some may consider this is simply not necessary – they never see the client. Well, even if you almost never greet the client there is always that chance you might. Thus, the old adage – be prepared.

Some things to consider:

Men in an office situation

- ◆ Button-up shirt – preferably long

sleeves (gives you more credibility) even if they are rolled up below the elbow

- ◆ Shirt tucked into pants
- ◆ Dress slacks – save the dockers, jeans and khaki's, for weekends
- ◆ Leather shoes (ensure the heels are not run down/shoes polished) and socks

Women in an office situation

- ◆ Skirt or dress – knee length
- ◆ Shirt/blouse – preferably $\frac{3}{4}$ or long sleeves (gives you more credibility than short sleeves)
- ◆ Cleavage covered
- ◆ Closed in shoe with a 1 to 3-inch heel (heels not run down/polished) and nylons
- ◆ Pant (not sweats, pj's, or jeans) – however, you get more credibility in a skirt or dress

Grooming

- ◆ Smile – keep it sparkling with teeth in good shape and smile from the corners of the mouth right up to the eyes
- ◆ Finger nails – appropriate to the job
- ◆ Hair clean and tidy (same with facial hair)
- ◆ How do you want to appear – wrinkle free says “pays attention to detail” while wrinkled says, “don't take time for little things”

Many people keep a jacket and dress shoes at the office “just in case” – then you are always prepared.

One thing to remember – others always pay attention to your appearance. They make the decisions about who is going to be promoted. If your work is extraordinary and you dress like you belong in the next position you just may get it.

The choice is always yours. Which way do you want to appear as the brand of you and your organization?

Sherry's Corner



If you are on Facebook you sometimes see some very disrespectful comments. I was recently surprised when someone indicated people would be removed from a particular site if they were not respectful of other people's opinions.

Bravo to those who stand up and call out those who do not respect others. When we say nothing, we are in essence, agreeing with the negative, sarcastic, caustic and just plain mean comments.

It's not just Facebook where many people feel they are anonymous. It's everywhere. Stand up against those who are disrespectful of others. When was the last time you stood up against others who show disrespect. We would love to hear your story. Simply email me and let me know your experience.

Email: sherry@dimension11.com

QUOTE

“Problem with cyber bullying is everything. If you have something mean to say, look in the mirror & say it to yourself. Maybe you'll think twice.”

Anonymous

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