



How To Recession-Proof  
Your Wardrobe

*your*  
**STYLE VAULT**

FABULOUS STYLE  HONEST ADVICE

[yourstylevault.com](http://yourstylevault.com)

# What Is The Single Worst Fashion Mistake Women Make?

Your problem is not that you have nothing to wear. It's not even that you wear the same pieces over and over again because nothing else in your closet looks good or feels comfortable. The single worst mistake I see women make when it comes to getting dressed is not knowing how to mix and match what you already have. And you do have some great pieces. I promise you. But you feel caught in the vicious cycle of buying pieces you don't know how to wear or even like, and wearing the same 10 pieces everyday but not feeling especially stylish.



*"The single worst mistake I see women make when it comes to getting dressed is not knowing how to mix and match what you already have."*

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I promise you, your closet holds a secret treasure trove of stylish outfits. Your tired and outdated clothes are getting in the way so you barely notice the wardrobe heroes you actually own. I'm teaching you the art and science of creating a stylish and cohesive look, without purchasing more. And this is how you recession-proof your wardrobe.

# Wear What You Have The Right Way

Guess what three of the most recession-proof industries are? Alcohol, cigarettes and skincare. I've always gotten such a kick out of that stat. Who knows if it'll hold true over time, but I for one do have a stash of lotions and sunscreens on hand in the event of a recession. Something else I get a kick out of sharing with clients and groups is that I started this company in 2007, the year of the Great Recession. I was at the time fresh back from Sotheby's London and brokering high-end estate jewelry. But I sure saw the writing on the walls that summer, and I knew diamond jewelry would be a hard sell during a recession. My friend Sally said *you should do for clothes what you do with jewelry*. And here I am almost 15 years later.



My specialty has been, from the beginning, teaching you how to wear what you have the right way, how to stop making costly mistakes, and how to buy both classic wardrobe heroes *and* trendy throw-aways, the right way. This is why I adore when a reader or Vault member comes up to me in a restaurant, a party or TJ Maxx (I'm always there) wearing WHITE JEANS! or V-NECK TOPS! or NUDE PUMPS!! I feel like a proud mamma.

# #1 Follow The Rules Of Good Dressing

This rule is the science of good dressing. The simplest way to put it is opposites attract.

Think balance and proportion. If you're wearing something loose on top like a tunic, wear something fitted on the bottom like slim pants. If you're wearing a midi dress, wear a shorter jacket. If you're wearing a short skirt, wear a longer jacket.

*“Opposites attract.”*



The same rule, opposites attract, applies to the concept of high/low dressing. If you're wearing a conservative dress or suit, add a piece of statement jewelry (other than the traditional pearl studs) or pumps in an unexpected color. If you're wearing a fancy dress, pair it with a denim jacket for a more casual look. If you wear a strong red lip, do a neutral eye.

*How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe*

# #1 Follow The Rules Of Good Dressing

To learn more about how to create lovely outfits following the principles of “opposites attract,” read my guide, *The Three Rules For Creating Fabulous Outfits*. Click on the box below to be taken to this Insider-only guide!



*How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe*

## #2 Shop Your Closet & Triple Your Outfits

Before you buy anything new, shop your closet. Now that you're learning how to mix and match what you have in new, lovely ways, you'll discover you have triple the outfits you thought you had. You can wear that beautiful blue blazer more than 2 ways, I promise! Have fun mixing and matching - you'll feel like you have more clothes without buying anything new!

*"Shop your closet."*

I love versatile, classic pieces I can wear multiple ways, in multiple seasons. It just makes more sense! And you can devote more of your budget on investment pieces you'll have for years and years. These wardrobe building blocks don't have to be boring, either. It could be an aubergine sheath!



How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe  
#2 Shop Your Closet & Triple Your  
Outfits

One Dress, Four Ways



## How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe

# #2 Give Old Pieces New Jobs

Reinvent what you already have in your closet. That suit blazer you never wear looks great with jeans. That pencil skirt you never wear looks great with a denim shirt tied at the waist, or a t-shirt and and denim jacket.



*“Reinvent what you already have in your closet.”*



Dress down a church dress by adding sandals and a cardigan/denim jacket. Dress up a black sheath by adding fancy pumps and sparkly jewelry.

## #3 Expand Your Definition Of Neutrals

Expand your definition of neutrals to include the usuals like black, grey, ivory, white and also consider **navy, blush and pale pink, camel and cognac, and dark greens as neutrals.**

One of my big rules is don't pair primary colors with black; pair neutrals and earth tones with black instead for a much more elegant look. Black with red or black with blue will confuse you with a gameday cheerleader.



*“Expand your definition of neutrals”*

I've started treating pale pink, and certainly blush, as a neutral, and a pretty backdrop to stronger colors. I also love denim with ANYTHING. Consequently, blue is a neutral - from dark blue or navy, to faded blue, and I also include turquoise.

## #3 Expand Your Definition Of Neutrals

Neutrals allow you to get more mileage out of every piece you own because everything goes together. Neutrals allow you to play with accessories like fabulous shoes and jewelry, letting them take the leading role of an outfit.

*“Neutrals are the backdrop to fabulous accessories.”*

I've been wearing neutrals for years, long before I started doing wardrobe consulting. Here's why: neutrals are timeless & classic. Think about the most well-dressed women in recent history. They stuck to a wardrobe of neutrals - Lauren Hutton, Audrey Hepburn, C.Z. Guest are great examples.



Saks Fifth Avenue  
POLO RALPH LAUREN  
\$98.5



Intermix  
DANNIJO  
\$180



Off 5th  
SAM EDELMAN  
\$49.99 \$128



Amazon.com  
NYDJ  
\$69.3 \$71.8



J.McLaughlin  
RUBY REVERSIBLE LEAT...  
\$118



J.McLaughlin  
LEANNE LEATHER WED...  
\$248

Clockwise from top left: [blue sweater](#) / [drop earrings](#) / [lemon clutch](#) / [pale yellow denim](#) / [belt](#) / [wedges](#)

## How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe

# #4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe

Speaking of accessories, the *right* accessory can make an outfit. Finish it. Complete it. As in, *Statement Necklace, you complete me*. And, *Hermès scarf, you had me at Bonjour*. The wrong accessory is a disaster that will land you on *What Not To Wear* lists. And who wants to be a member of *that* club?

“Go bold with accessories.”



Shop my blog, [Spring Accessory Scouting](#), with the prettiest Spring accessories to make an outfit pop!

# How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe

## #4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe

### Statement Necklaces



Shop my blog, [Spring Accessory Scouting](#), with the prettiest Spring accessories to make an outfit pop!

How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe  
#4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe

A Large Wrap



Shop my blog, [Spring Accessory Scouting](#), with the prettiest Spring accessories to make an outfit pop!

*How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe*  
**#4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe**

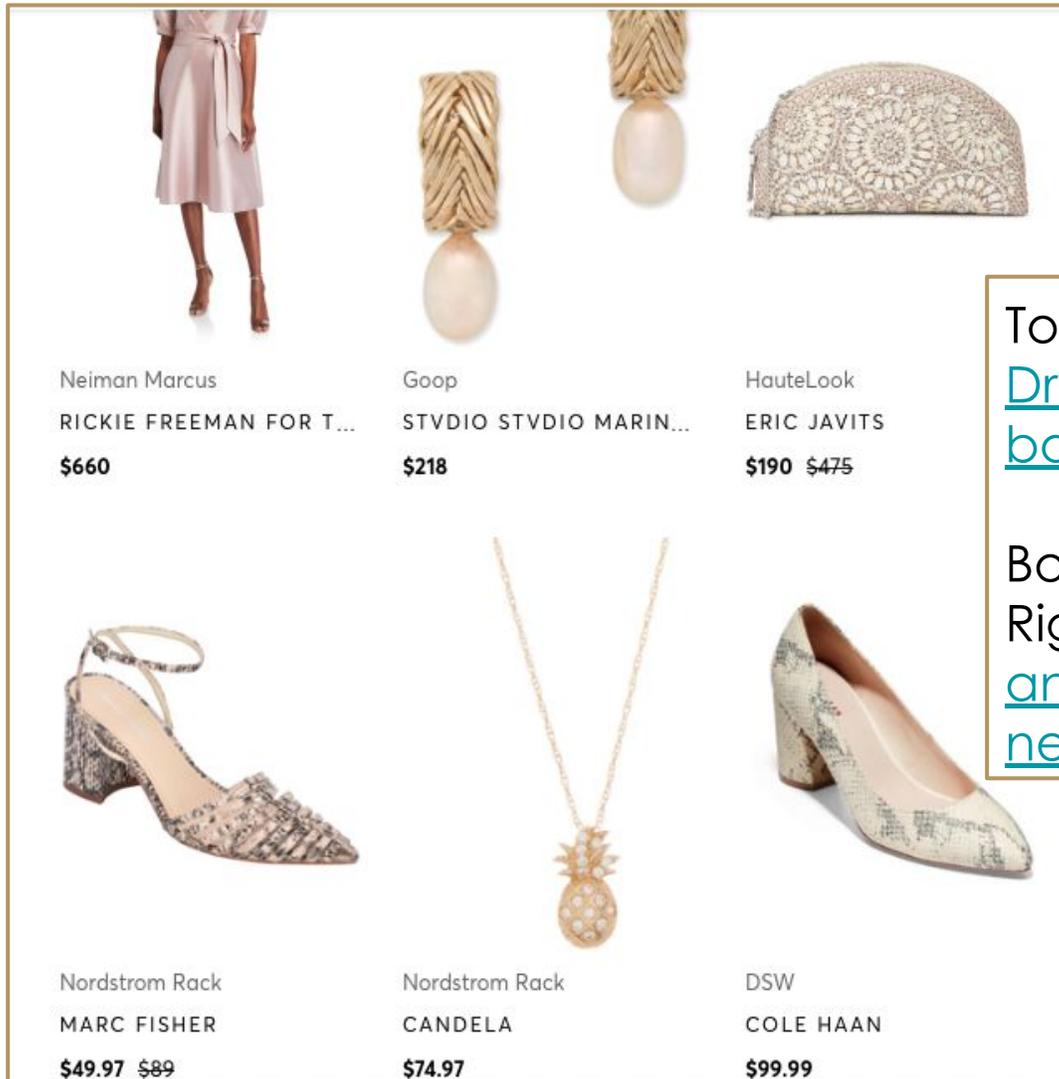
Do you love all the beautiful scarves sitting in your drawer but you never wear them? So did I. But then I decided to figure out how! Click on the box below to be taken to your Insiders-only guide, *How To Wear A Scarf Like A Parisian*.



# How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe

## #4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe

Great accessories to invest in:  
animal print pumps or flats,  
belts, a statement necklace.  
And your old LBD will come  
back to life!



Top Left to Right:  
[Dress](#)/ [earrings](#)/  
[bag](#)

Bottom Left to  
Right:  
[ankle strap pumps](#)/  
[necklace](#)/ [pumps](#)

How To Recession-Proof Your Wardrobe  
#4 Build An Accessories Wardrobe

A Large Wrap



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# How To Reinvent An Old Classic

## A White Sheath



SILVER URBANISM WO...

\$11.9



BB DAKOTA

\$98



JOHNNY WAS

\$328



JAMES PERSE

\$74.99 ~~\$225~~

Find my blog [HERE](#) to shop the above outfit.

# How To Reinvent An Old Classic

## An Old Suit Blazer



Everlane  
EVERLANE  
\$55



Anthropologie  
ANTHROPOLOGIE  
\$36 \$48



Nordstrom  
ASTR THE LABEL  
\$158



Ann Taylor  
ANN TAYLOR  
\$98



Last Call by Neiman Marcus  
NEIMAN MARCUS  
\$73.5 \$105



Neiman Marcus  
SCHUTZ  
\$140

Find my blog [HERE](#) to shop the above outfit.

# How To Reinvent An Old Classic

## An Old Suit Blazer



POLO RALPH LAUREN

\$598



LOEFFLER RANDALL

\$195



7 FOR ALL MANKIND

\$169



L+T FAVE

MARC FISHER

\$175

Find my blog [HERE](#) to shop the above outfit.

# How To Reinvent An Old Classic

## An Old Cardigan



J.Crew  
J.CREW  
**\$188**



Club Monaco  
CLUB MONACO  
**\$112.99** ~~\$210~~



Brooks Brothers  
BROOKS BROTHERS  
**\$88**



J.Crew  
J.CREW  
**\$368**



shopbop.com  
LELE SADOUGH  
**\$225**



Banana Republic  
BANANA REPUBLIC  
**\$128**

Find my blog [HERE](#) to shop the above outfit.

# How To Reinvent An Old Classic

## An Old Denim Skirt



Tuckernuck  
THE SHIRT BY ROCHELL...  
**\$94**



Banana Republic  
BANANA REPUBLIC  
**\$48**



DSW  
MAX STUDIO  
**\$29.98 \$39.99**



Francesca's  
FRANCESCA'S  
**\$30**



Zappos  
BLANK NYC  
**\$78**



Bloomingdale's  
SAM EDELMAN  
**\$140**

Find my blog [HERE](#) to shop the above outfit.

A person wearing a grey skirt and a ring is standing next to a stone wall. The image is framed by a white border.

# WANT MORE STYLE TIPS LIKE THIS?

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Explore more of Tina's tips in the Style Guides!

[SHOW MORE](#)

Thank you so much for stopping by and spending some time with us! Please visit often!

And always feel free to email me. I'd love to hear from you!



Xo,

Tina

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