



IT'S *All* ABOUT
YOU!

DECODING THE DRESS CODE

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BLACK TIE – This term refers to floor length or tea length (to the ankles) formal dress. A small bag or clutch can be carried for a sophisticated look. For an elegant effect, wear Chandelier or solitaire diamond earrings with matching bracelet. A long coat is often necessary in the winter months. Consider an evening wrap in silk, satin or for more warmth, a cashmere, fur, faux fur, velvet or fur trimmed long coat to make an awesome entrance. Men wear a tuxedo.

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL – Short formal dress or glamorous evening pants are your best choices. Be sure to wear your pearls, diamonds, crystals, rhinestone, gold or silver jewelry for a more sophisticated look. Formal shoes as are as important as the dress. Be sure to choose comfortable yet 2-3 inch heel with a formal design. Men may opt out of wearing a tuxedo; therefore a dark suit and tie are the best choice.

FORMAL – This term is similar to BLACK TIE; long dress or ultra-dressy (with sequins or brocade) pants or dressy cocktail dress. Usually refers to an evening event.

INFORMAL – This term usually means pants or skirt with a dressy sweater or blouse.

COCKTAILS – Wear dresses to the knees or tea length, elegant pants with a dressy top, (often in black or dark colors), unless held in the summer (brighter colors) are fine. If cocktails are held immediately after work, women may want to put on dressy shoes, change their accessories for a more glamorous effect, and perhaps add a dressy top to their existing pant or skirted suit.

SEMI-FORMAL – Term is the same dress as COCKTAILS. Think silky, flared '50s-style frock. Satin stilettos and a clutch that sparkles, matched with cluster drop earrings gives a perfect finish.

BUSINESS ATTIRE – Always means a suit; slacks or skirt with matching jacket worn with a professional blouse, such as an oxford, pointed or peter pan (rounded) collar.

BUSINESS CASUAL – This means a step down from BUSINESS ATTIRE. Slacks or skirt with a jacket that compliments is most acceptable. Casual, dress shirts, sweaters, twin sweater sets, and turtlenecks are acceptable. Jeans are unacceptable and be sure clothing is pressed and never wrinkled.

URBAN/CASUAL CHIC – This term denotes a host’s desire that one is dressed comfortably, not overly dressy, and not sloppy. All black pants suit or skirt (or navy if you have a summer’s coloring or are a red head) is a safe bet.

BAR-B-QUE/POOL ATTIRE –Capri pants, sun dresses, long caftan (a long, full, usually collarless robe with wide sleeves), or shorts are great. If your host specifically suggests wearing a bathing suit, you may do so but wear a cover-up that is “dress like”, covering breasts and hips. Please be sure to bring your own towel. Fun accessories such as bracelets, metallic sandals, and beach bags with cool sunglasses make a chic fashion statement.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

DRESSY – This term refers to dress made of fabrics such as linen, chiffon, lame, taffeta, satin, silk, velvet or cashmere.

CHIC – While this term has become more commonly used as a dress code term, in reality it is a term that describes an “effect” one may strive to gain. Other words that define this adjective are:

- Glamorous
- Stylish
- Fashionable
- Attractive
- Elegant
- Modish
- Edgy
- Well-Put Together
- Bold or Fun
- Trendy

I am sure this will take the stress out of dressing for your events-please visit my website for more ideas!

