

Dressing For the Holidays

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2008

The Office Party

This is still a professional situation, so be careful on being too suggestive. Be aware of the time of day and location.

Day office party	Best “going to the office” outfit
Evening party in a restaurant	Informal evening
Dinner and dance	Semi-formal evening
Gala or formal	Formal evening

Informal Evening Party

Even a Smart Casual or Informal Evening outfit can have some glitz and glamour. Look for a luxury accent piece. A jacket in velvet, lace, or metallic can dress up elegant jeans or leggings. A bold piece of jewellery can add cachet to casual.

Semi-Formal Evening Party

Choose cocktail dresses that enhance your body and colouring. If black's not your colour, select from burgundy, taupe, purple, or cream. A faux fur stole or velvet cape can add a glamorous edge. Have fun with your jewellery (big and bold), shoes (sling-backs a great option), and handbag (teensy). This year you have the opportunity to embellish all the way, so now's not the time to be understated.

Formal Evening Party

For a gala or ball, you can do a shimmery gown that draws attention. Hair in an up-do and sparkly earrings and necklace can flatter the face, as well as add elegance. Shoes and bag have sheen and are special for evening. If you have a male partner, he will be in a black suit or tuxedo.

Details

Do extra in your make-up. Evening make-up focuses either on the eyes or the lips: dark smoky eyes and pale lips or neutral eyes and intense red lips.

Get a manicure and pedicure – be ready for all the parties that happen at this time of year with pretty hands and feet.

Invest in appropriate foundation garments for your festive attire. A spandex-y camisole can smooth the tummy area so that thin fabrics hang smoothly. A strapless bustier can provide support for shoulder-baring attire.

Gaffes (Don'ts)

- Don't dress inappropriately. I've seen women at a gala ball dressed in business suits, looking as if they are going to work.
- Don't carry a non-evening bag to an evening event.
- Don't wear leather pumps for a formal evening.
- Don't dress below what the situation warrants.

Whatever you're doing this holiday season, have a great time!

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