

# Try spring blouses and platforms in cold when boots and sweaters get old

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tired of wearing that same chunky sweater, the one that looked so up-to-the-minute in November, but now is covered in fuzz balls?

What about those clunky knee-high boots? They felt great those first cold weeks of winter, but wouldn't a cool new wedge sandal be a welcome relief?

While it's freezing outside, it's warming up inside the stores, as spring fashion blossoms and miniskirts, capped sleeve blouses and summer swing dresses push aside chunky sweaters, dark wool pants and turtlenecks.

But warm weather is still too far away to wear most of those sweet new looks.

"I understand the frustration -- it's cold outside, but the stores have spring and summer collections," said Lois Joy Johnson, beauty and fashion director for MORE magazine. "The fashion industry is on a different schedule than the way women live. There used to be a very clear season called transitional clothing. It's vanished. We speed straight from wool into light cottons."

So here are some suggestions for what you can do right now to fight your winter wardrobe fatigue:

Stacey Pecor, owner of New York boutique chain Olive & Bette's

Pecor suggests picking up a spring blouse and wearing it under a dark suit. A capped sleeve blouse—a good look this spring—in white, cream, navy, or red with some embroidered flowers or ruffles can be just the piece to lighten up a heavy winter outfit.

She also recommends pairing spring's tank jersey dresses (you can wear them over a turtleneck or with a cardigan) with patterned tights and knee-high boots. Or buy new pants to wear with your sweaters, said Pecor. "There's some great wide leg pants that are in stores right now," she said. And don't forget to look for jeans with the new higher rises.

Lois Joy Johnson, beauty and fashion director, MORE magazine

When weather permits, exchange your knee-high boots for spring's platform pumps or something in a metallic, she suggests. A matte silver or gold wedge, platform or ballet flat is big this spring. No more stilettos, she says.

"If you want to wear pants and have a leggy look, you can have some height with platforms," she said. "If you want to be more grounded and you are into the 60s dresses—that kind of looser, A-line dress—the flats look amazing."

Or buy a white shirt and wear it under a leather jacket. Light cotton white blouses with puffed sleeves and V-neck lines are popular. She also suggests adding a metallic belt and handbag to freshen an all-black look.

"Between accessories and one or two pieces in proportion, you can keep wearing the same clothes," she said. "Rather than saying 'I can't wait to wear spring clothes,' you can sort of edge into it this way."

Jayne Chase and Jennifer Goodkind, hosts of the radio show A Fashionable Life on AM 1490 WGCH in Greenwich, Conn.

Trade in the sterling silver for some gold, said Chase. "Gold is the new silver in jewelry," she said. "Gold bangles and gold cuffs, bright colored gems set in gold."

Never underestimate the power of new makeup, they advise. "Makeup is an easy

way to make a difference in your look and gives you a new attitude as well," Goodkind said. "Experiment with red (lipstick)...Find a shade that works with your skin tone and pair it with a natural face."

Joanna Mastroianni, New York fashion designer

Add some color. There are more seasonless colors, said Mastroianni, who even included black as part of her

spring collection.

"We don't put colors into categories anymore," she said. "You can always wear red, orange."

And spend some time putting together combinations you've never tried before, she said. "What's fun is to take the look and add other elements," she said. "Play with things. Try on your jacket. Try on different earrings with it."



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### What Does It Mean To You?

As I stated in my last column, we usually associate financial achievement with success. It is true that we all need money to have the necessities of life. But once we have achieved those goals, what follows next?

Many people, once they have achieved financial success, realize that there is more that they want from life. In spite of the financial success they have achieved, they realize that something is missing.

I have talked to quite a few people in my work who have stated that they thought that once they achieved their financial goals they would be happy and fulfilled. However, they realized that the financial rewards were not enough. They realized that they wanted to be involved in something that was more fulfilling. They wanted something that they felt was making a lasting difference in the lives of others.

As a result, many decided to change their careers or start new professions. Often they ended up in professions or careers that worked with non-profit or

service organizations. They could then see the impact that they were having on people's lives and discovered that this was much more satisfying.

Perhaps that is where you are today. You may have a job or position that is financially rewarding but feel that there is something missing in what you do. What do you do about a situation like this?

The perfect solution would be to find a career that allows you to follow your heart and be financially rewarding as well. What does your career or profession mean to you? Do you find it rewarding and filled with meaning and meeting your financial needs as well?

There are ways that you really can have both. Let's talk about that the next time.

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