

# Fashion, Shopping & Care™

The 3-Minute Newsletter for Men, Women & Teens!

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**CLOTHING CARE**  
... with Steve



**FASHION & STYLE 411**  
... with Pascale



## Stain Emergency 101 - The Basics

Knowing stain-survival secrets and “what *not* to do” is just as important as knowing “what *to* do!” Dryclean-only clothing requires *different* care than washable clothing, as do the stains that we spill on them. Here’s some basic first aid that will *not* make matters worse, ruin your clothing, or compromise what your drycleaner will do next to restore your clothing.

*When You Have a Stain Emergency:*

Resist advice from well-meaning hosts and friends. People are very quick to offer help in these awkward situations, but *you* are the best and most qualified person to handle this.

- ▶ First, count to ten, relax, and do *not* apply water or club soda until you *know* if the stain is water-based or oily!
- ▶ Think of water and club soda as the same, and never apply then to oily stains, lipstick & ink stains. (Especially on dryclean-only fabrics.)
- ▶ Gently blot the stained area with a dry, white napkin and *stop*.
- ▶ Water can spread stains, bleed dyes and ruin silk – and other dryclean-only fabrics – making future removal or restoration by your drycleaner an impossible task!
- ▶ Try to dryclean all stained clothing within 24-48 hours and always point out the stains. Drycleaners are not mind readers!
- ▶ If the garment is washable, and the stain has *no* oil in it, you have my blessing to use water or club soda - in small amounts!



## Shopping Savvy Part I...

- ▶ Make a list of your favorite colors, fabrics and styles before you begin to shop. Don’t waste time with “wrong” colors. If you need help picking colors, ask a friend or professional!
- ▶ Assess your lifestyle and buy for that lifestyle. If you’ve changed, so should the style of clothing that you buy.
- ▶ Fashion is fleeting, but style is forever – your personal style!
- ▶ Look good and feel good so the clothing looks good on you.
- ▶ To make the most of your shopping experience, have a plan!
- ▶ Before you leave your home, grab merchandise returns, store credits and gift certificates.

**Steve Boorstein is an author, clothier, drycleaner and radio show host.**

## Building a Wardrobe Part I

*Get Organized*

Before you can focus on building the perfect wardrobe, you first have to take inventory of what you actually own, then clean house! That means clearing out the emotional cobwebs and being realistic about what you actually wear vs. what’s just been collecting dust in the back of your closet.

We’re all guilty of gazing through our closets with blank stares, groaning that we have nothing to wear. The truth is that most of us have closets jammed with “security blanket” outfits we never actually wear. They represent a multitude of things: our youth, what we used to fit in (10 years ago), and all those trendy bargains we couldn’t pass up. But in the meantime, we still have “nothing to wear!” So, my advice is to take a deep breath and get ready to clear out your closet, and your life might follow!

- ▶ First, take inventory of what actually fits and what doesn’t. Have your own in-house fashion show and try things on. If you haven’t worn it in 6 months or more, remove it from the closet. If it doesn’t fit anymore, chances are it won’t fit any time soon, so get rid of it. Either throw it away or donate it to charity. Cleanse and purge! Edit, edit, edit!
- ▶ Next, organize things by categories: suits, slacks, skirts, blazers, and blouses, etc.
- ▶ Now that you have a clear idea of what you own, make a complete list of what you have. This is often more practical than just making a mental list. This will also help you determine where the “holes” are in your wardrobe.

Continued next issue ... Now, a quick peek at Fashion trends for Spring 2005

*Neo-Bohemian Chic*

Reminiscent of a Moroccan bazaar, this gypsy style turns up in spicy hues like Saffron, Paprika, Marigold and Turmeric. Look for fluid tunic shapes, batik prints and lots of natural fabrics like linen, cotton and raw silk.

*Must-Have:* An ethnic sheer tunic with beading.

Editor’s pick: Milly’s gauzy silk version with gold passementerie.

**Pascale Lemaire is a Fashion Writer & Stylist**

**Bryans Cleaners [www.bryanscleaners.com](http://www.bryanscleaners.com)  
544 South Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena 626.796.4335**

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