

FASHION, SHOPPING & CARE™

The 3-Minute Newsletter for Men, Women & Teens

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CLOTHING CARE ... with Steve

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Stain School & Care: Winter Weather 3

Winter Weather: Hand Bags and Wardrobe

In the past two issues we addressed how to care for overcoats and outerwear when faced with rain, snow, salt and sand. In this last installment on "foul" weather, we'll add a few more tips that will open your eyes to other clothing-damaging aspects of winter!

▶ Each time that you bend or lean forward, while climbing stairs, your hem becomes longer. As a result, your hem brushes each stair as you climb. Escalators present a similar concern. Long hems can pick up grease from the stairs and sidewalls and, in some cases, can be caught and torn in the moving stairs.



Handbags and Briefcases

The moisture from rain and snow can cause some deep-colored leather dyes to bleed. When leather becomes overly wet, the loose dye can deposit onto your clothing. Each time that your handbag or briefcase swings back and forth by your side, it touches your clothing.

Keep this in mind and be conscious the next time you're caught in the rain or snow.

A Quick Reminder about Shoe & Boot Care ...

▶ Leather boots should be gently cleaned and suede boots should be lightly brushed, after each wearing.

▶ If your boots are wet, then allow them to dry at room temperature. Never put them close to a heat source, as the leather may become dry, brittle and dull.

▶ After drying, use cedar boot trees to help maintain the shape. If you don't have boot trees, then stuff the inside — from toe to heel — with newspaper print to help absorb moisture and maintain shape.

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Building a Wardrobe: Getting Organized!

Know what's in your closet!

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 versus what's just been collecting dust in the back of your closet.

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 anytime soon, so get rid of it. Either throw it away, donate it to charity or sell it to a secondhand store. Cleanse and purge! Edit, edit, edit!

▶ While you're doing this, take a few moments to vacuum your closet to remove dust, lint, and possible "moth sacks" that can ransack your precious fabrics!

▶ Next, organize things by categories: suits, slacks, skirts, blazers, 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.

Call this pre-spring pruning. Shop and replace during the slow season

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