Weighing in on summer-weight suits

By Dawn Stanyon, AICI FLC, Professional Image Consultant



Scenario: Temperature: 90 degress; Humidity: 90%; and it feels like you should be swimming to work.

Dilemma: The thought of putting on a suit makes you want to weep but you're having lunch with a prospective client so you have to represent.

Solution: Put on a summer-weight suit.

If you work in an industry that requires you to wear a suit daily or on occasion (or if just love wearing a suit like <u>Barney</u> on How I Met Your Mother), you should invest in a couple lightweight suits.

Here are five points of interest about summer-weight suits:

1. They can be found just about everywhere: <u>J. Crew</u>, <u>Banana Republic</u>, Macy's, <u>Brooks</u> <u>Brothers</u>, and beyond.

- 2. Many people think linen when they think of summer suits. The problem is linen wrinkles the first time you sit down. Wrinkles are the hallmark of a linen suit, but in a business setting that informality doesn't send the right message. Save the linen suit for a daytime outdoor wedding.
- 3. There are options: <u>cotton</u>, cotton/linen blend, fine gabardine, worsted, and silk/wool blends. In many offices, the comfortable and cool cotton or cotton blend suit would be perfect.
- 4. If you want a more formal look, opt for a wool/silk blend. While we think of wool as warm, a summer-weight wool (higher thread count keeps you cool and repels moisture (unlike cotton). Also, this type of material has a slight sheen to it that lends itself to formality.
- 5. A summer-weight wool suit will be labeled Super 120 to 150. This is a good three to four-month suit weight fabric and it drapes better than cotton.

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