

Top spring trends for 2008

- Bright, bold colors, such as lemon yellow, turquoise, fuchsia, cherry red and lilac.
- The print dress. A recent survey for T.J. Maxx showed that 44 percent of respondents labeled this dress as their "must-have" for the season.
- Cropped jackets with details on the sleeves and shoulders. These jackets are fitted and can be paired with a skirt or jeans.
- Wide-legged pants that emphasize the waist.
- "Safari-style" clothing in neutral colors, such as chocolate, tan or white.
- Handbags and bright shoes.
- Full, flirty skirts.

SOURCES: Alicia Richmond, Chic on a Shoestring and T.J. Maxx

How to cut your clothing budget

Take advantage of off-season sales

- Men's suits and coats go on sale in February, April, November and before Christmas.
- Buy children's clothing after back-to-school sales in October.
- Buy women's winter coats and suits in November.
- Purchase summer clothing, swimsuits, shoes and sandals during July and August sales.
- Buy ski clothing and other activity-based attire during July sales.

Take proper care of the clothing you have

- Don't cram all your clothes on wire hangers. Heavy plastic or covered hangers are recommended for some clothing items.
- Wear old, washable clothes for cleaning.
- Clean and polish your shoes before storing.
- Deodorize sneakers by filling the foot portion of a knee-high hose with cat litter. Place in sneakers overnight.

SOURCES: Teresa Hunsaker, consumer science educator with Utah State University Extension Services

Cheap

chic

Tips to look good on a budget

By Nicole Warburton

Deseret News

fitting rooms



Fit is everything

The top thing a person can do when updating a wardrobe is look for items that fit his or her individual body type, according to Alicia Richmond, a Salt Lake wardrobe stylist and owner of Chic on a Shoestring.

Not only does a well-fitted item look good, but it saves money because it actually gets worn instead of sitting in the closet, Richmond said.

Here are some of Richmond's basic tips for determining fit:

- Clothing should skim the body. It should not cling to or bag.
- If you can pinch an inch of fabric under the seat of your pants, near your hips or under your armpits, your clothing may be too large. If you can pinch less than an inch, your clothing may be too small.
- Big, baggy clothing can make you look two to three sizes larger.
- Define your waistline, no matter if it's a problem area. Use different fabrics to give the illusion of being narrower or more defined.
- Balance shoulders and hips. If you've got narrow shoulders, wear clothing that appears to extend your shoulders.

Spring is here, and with the warm weather comes new styles that are vibrant, feminine and a little more fun than previous seasons.

Got the urge to buy? We sure do.

But these are tough economic times, and before you head out, consider three well-tested steps to help freshen your wardrobe without emptying your wallet. The first is to purge, second to assess and third to shop.

Let's walk through the details.

Step 1 — Purge

You can't update your wardrobe without first cleaning your closet, said Teresa Hunsaker, a consumer science educator with Utah State University. Regular sifting makes room for more clothes and can help you decide what new items to shop for, she said.

For example, do you need new shoes, shirts, a jacket or pants? How will a new item mesh with what you already have?

"Do your homework first by really going through your closet," Hunsaker said. "How better to slash your clothing dollar than to say, 'What do I need it for?'"

A closet purge can also save cash by educating a person about why some clothing sits on the shelf without being worn, said Alicia Richmond, owner of Chic on a Shoestring and a weekly contributor to "Good Things Utah" on ABC Ch. 4.

Many times the biggest culprit behind never-worn items is fit, according to Richmond. You buy a shirt because it's cute and cheap, but you don't wear the item because it doesn't quite fit your body.

Please see **CHIC** on C4



Fashion consultant Alicia Richmond helps client Jami Morrell shop for a pair of shoes at Macy's in Sandy.



Alicia Richmond, left, and Jami Morrell check the fit of an item. A good fit is important, Richmond says.