



Work it

One suit and a few separates get you through the week

BY KAREN VITT
SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

What's the latest buzz around the office water cooler? Sure, your co-workers may be dishing about who got fired on "The Apprentice" or who's been busted surfing eBay at their desk. But take a memo: This spring, start the company chattering about your cute new suit.

Dressing for the office is hard work. The daily challenge of dressing to company code without compromising personal style can feel like a second job. The right suit can save you from working overtime to look your best Monday to Friday.

"Having a basic suit is essential to any working woman's wardrobe," says Jennifer Munoz, a spokeswoman for Meier & Frank. "One classic suit, along with coordinating separates, definitely helps a woman get more out of her wardrobe."

This season, look for a basic suit in a spring shade that's still neutral enough to dress up or down. Punch it up with playful accessories like clustered necklaces or gleaming metallics for a different look every day of the week.

"It is so important for women to reflect their personality in their work uniform," says style consultant Sara Dahlquist. Brooches, scarves, bold necklaces and bracelets help you stand out from the other suits.

"Women are leaning more toward wearing suits to work because the workplace is requiring it," says Munoz. "And women are really lucky because there truly are a lot of great suits out there that really flatter the figure and help a woman in power to exude confidence in the workplace, while still looking chic."

Max Edition lavender blazer **\$169**,
and matching trousers **\$89**
Joseph A. coral sleeveless sweater **\$36**
Nine West Lilybeth bow pump **\$75**
All at Meier & Frank

Robert Lee Morris silver whisper necklace **\$425**
Skagen stainless steel mesh watch **\$95**
Both at Something Silver

Eames Soft Pad Chair **\$2,195**
At Design Within Reach



Monday

The first day of the week calls for polished attire, which gives you the confidence to tackle a new workweek.

“With a great suit, like the one from Max Edition, it's easy to pair it with lots of different colors because it's a fairly neutral lavender,” says Jennifer Munoz, spokeswoman for Meier & Frank. “By adding coral accessories, it creates a whole new vibrant look.”

Amanda Smith cotton topcoat **\$86**
Max Edition lavender trousers **\$89**
Nine West Lilybeth bow pump **\$75**
All at Meier & Frank

Coral leather handbag **\$118**
At Ann Taylor

PHOTOS BY TIM LaBARGE
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