

How to Wear Prints Without Fear

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So many women are afraid to wear prints. I suspect it's because they've seen so many ugly prints that they've developed an aversion to all prints. There's also the problem of mixing and matching print separates. We've all had a print skirt in our closet that we never wore because we didn't know what to wear with it. So let's talk about how to wear prints.

No one is saying that you have to wear prints. You can live quite stylishly wearing nothing but solids. But wearing prints can be a lot of fun, so why miss out? It's liberating to step outside of our fashion comfort zones every



now and then.

Proportions

Over the years, I've read conflicting advice on which prints are flattering to plus size women. I've heard that a small print (such as little flowers) will make plus size women look bigger than they are. I've also heard that a large print (such as giant flowers) will make us look bigger. No wonder some women don't know how to wear prints –

even some experts don't know.

First of all, we're each the size that we are and nothing we wear is going to make us really look bigger or smaller. (Except for shapewear (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/shapewear-best-body-type/>), of course.) When considering a print, ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I like this print?
2. Do the dominant colors flatter my skin tone (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-figure-colors-flatter-skin-tone/>)?

That's it. Don't worry if those particular polka dots are too big or too small for you. All that matters is whether you like them.

Start Small

If you're not used to wearing prints, you don't have to start with a bright print dress. Instead, wear a print accessory. Blogger Becky Barnes of The Ramblings of Mrs BeBe (<http://www.mrsbebeblog.co.uk/>) says, "Start small,

add in prints through accessories like head wraps or scarves.” A multicolored scarf can go with several outfits, so you’ll have plenty of chances to play with it and get used to wearing a print.

Once you’re comfortable with a little bit of print, try some more. Becky says, “Teaming bold printed tops with jeans is a great way to introduce colour into your wardrobe.” Plus, everything goes with jeans, so you don’t have to worry about matching.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/tops/shana.html>)

The AbbeyPost Shana leopard print top, \$48

How to Wear Print Separates

After you get the hang of wearing prints, you're going to want to wear print separates with something besides jeans. This is a little more advanced, and you may put off wearing your new fabulous print skirt because you're not sure what to wear it with.

So, do you have to wear a top that exactly matches one of the colors in your print skirt? Becky says, "Not necessarily, although if you're a little wary of prints, it may be a good idea to match the colours." So if you have the [Annie skirt](http://abbeypost.com/shop/skirts/annie-ovals.html) in our black, white, gray and red ovals print, you can wear it with any one of those colors.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/skirts/annie-ovals.html>)

The AbbeyPost Annie Skirt in our exclusive Ovals print (\$52) proves that prints don't have to be scary, and they can be versatile!

If you're going to go that route, don't let the skirt (or top) sit in your closet for a couple of seasons before you start looking for a piece that matches exactly. Specific shades go in and out with trends, so this summer you might not be able to find anything that matches the print you bought last summer.

Another option is to match a print with a neutral. See if black, white, brown, gray, or navy will go with your print.

Your other option is to wear a contrasting color. Becky says, “with something like the [Aileen skirt \(http://abbeypost.com/shop/skirts/aileen-ovals.html\)](http://abbeypost.com/shop/skirts/aileen-ovals.html) [in the leopard print] I would maybe wear it with a contrasting turquoise top.” A contrasting color will look much better with a print than a color that sort of matches one of the print’s colors, but not really.



(<http://abbeypost.com/shop/skirts/aileen-leopard.html>)

Aileen Jersey Pencil Skirt, Leopard, \$48

How to Accessorize Prints

If you're wearing a print close to your face, keep your accessories subtle and let the print do its thing. A bold statement necklace paired with a print top or dress may be too busy. But if you're wearing a print away from your face, then balance it with an eye-catching necklace. If you pair a print skirt with a neutral top, then try to wear a necklace that matches one of the prints' colors to tie the outfit together.

Don't Fear the Prints

Any time we step outside our fashion comfort zones, it can be a little scary. But it's just clothes. If you don't like how you look in prints, you may be responding to the look of doubt on your face as you check out your outfit in the mirror. All you need to look fantastic in prints is a little confidence!



Image courtesy of the fabulous GarnerStyle!

Any questions about how to wear prints? Ask us in the comments.

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