

# Hello Family, Goodbye Personal Style? 4 Tips For Looking Great While Home For The Holidays

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Growing up, my personal style was super duper casual. Part of that was rebellion against my Catholic school uniform (the ugliest plaid I've ever seen before or since) and my high school's seemingly totally arbitrary dress code. The other part was that at least I could find jeans and sweatshirts in my size. The early 80s were a grim time to be petite or plus size or both—like I was.



Now that I have way more fashion options than I ever dared to dream of, my personal style is more fashionista than frumpy. But I still feel like my usual outfits aren't quite right for family gatherings. Growing up, my mother used to nag me to dress up for holiday dinners, but now I worry she's going to

comment that I'm overdressed. (In fairness to my Mom, she's never said anything like that, but the imaginary Mom in my head thinks everything I do is wrong, so really this one is on me.)

I often feel a little out of place when all my relatives are watching the big game in jeans and sweaters and I'm in a dress and fabulous shoes. Of course, I also have zero interest in sports so I probably wouldn't feel like I fit in no matter what I wore.

So what's a fashionable gal to do when she's headed home for the holidays? Here are my top tips for looking great in any situation your family can throw at you.



How to dress for time with your family? It can be tricky. Here's one perspective...

# 1. Dress For Anything

The fact is, visits home usually involve activities that we don't usually dress for. Maybe your family heads out for a walk in the woods, or a touch football game while the turkey is roasting. My family visits often include a walk down to the shore to let the kids throw rocks in the water.

You can't do any of those things in heels. And bringing a change of shoes doesn't always work. I once clomped through the snow to a family party in my Doc Martens and changed to ballet flats when I got inside. And then three helpful Labrador puppies kept bringing me my Docs, only covered in puppy drool.

Or maybe your family tends to be dressier than your personal style. You don't want to compromise who you are, but you don't want to feel like the family slob either. You can dress up your usual clothes with nice boots (don't forget the polish!) and a scarf wrapped around your neck. If skirts aren't your thing, try wearing [black pants \(http://abbeypost.com/tanya.html\)](http://abbeypost.com/tanya.html) or dark denim jeans. Aim for smart casual instead of dressy and you'll still be within your personal style comfort zone.

One of the holiday looks I've been rocking this year has been my AbbeyPost turtleneck, paired with a matching cardigan and a comfy, luxe scarf. I feel (and look!) put-together, yet comfortable and cozy. I chose the teal cardigan and teal turtleneck for an updated "twin set" look, but contrast works too!



(<http://abbeypost.com/jocelyn-cardigan.html>)

Jocelyn Dolman Sleeve Ponte Cardigan, \$64

## 2. Washable = Relaxation

The key is wearing an outfit that will work for whatever your cousins decide they feel like doing. This may require packing a change of clothes for ultimate frisbee ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultimate\\_%28sport%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ultimate_%28sport%29)) unless you're content with dressing sporty for dinner. I'm too clumsy and nearsighted to go outside to toss anything around, so I usually get by with

wearing flat shoes or boots and cheering from the sidelines. I pick a dress (or skirt and top) than I'm comfortable sitting on the ground or floor in because that's usually where the kids are playing.



Dry cleaning? We don't think so! Go easy care for hassle free dressing.

Wearing something machine washable is crucial here. You put a bunch of little kids (and big kids!) in a house together and they'll get so excited that things will get spilled. You'll be passing the gravy, the rolls, the butter and the stuffing 10 times during dinner. There's always a chance you'll get something on your clothes. Plus, if you have a big chest, you may end up wearing your dinner (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/best-ways-keep-food-clothes/>) no matter how careful you are. Do you want to get angry because your sister's kids got chocolate frosting on your clothes, or do you want to shrug it off because you know you can just toss everything in the washer?



(<http://abbeypost.com/paula.html>)

Paula Ponte Turtleneck, \$42

### 3. Cover Up For Family

Your personal style may tend towards short skirts. On a typical day, I tend to show a bit of cleavage. (It's more a [dress for your body shape](http://abbeypost.com/blog/?s=body+shape) (<http://abbeypost.com/blog/?s=body+shape>) thing than anything else.

My short neck and ample chest mean that the lower the neckline, the more flattering it is on me.) But you don't want your pubescent cousins watching you closely, just waiting for your skirt to ride up just a little too high. And I want to pass my Grandmother the turnips without flashing half the family.

We can always buy some clothes with a little more coverage for family gatherings. Or we can cover up creatively. Some leggings or opaque tights under your micro mini should give you family-friendly coverage. A camisole under my deep-V neckline can keep the goods under wraps without compromising my personal style.



Keep Calm! The holidays are almost over...

This year, I chose AbbeyPost's [Melissa velvet leggings](http://abbeypost.com/melissa.html) (<http://abbeypost.com/melissa.html>) and Ponte [Eleanor Top](http://abbeypost.com/eleanor-vneck-long-sleeve-top.html) (<http://abbeypost.com/eleanor-vneck-long-sleeve-top.html>) for a festive, yet

comfy and washable outfit that helped me feel totally covered up and yet nicely dressed.



(<http://abbeypost.com/eleanor-vneck-long-sleeve-top.html>)

Ponte Eleanor Top, Customizable, and available in 14 colors!

\$54

## 4. But Hold On To Your Personal Style At Home

Adjusting your personal style to visit your extended family isn't the same as sacrificing your identity. You're just making some adjustments so you're dressed appropriately for the occasion and the company you'll be keeping. There's so much baggage tied up in family that you may feel like dressing a little differently than usual is stifling and oppressive. But you'd dress up to go to a fancy restaurant and dress down for a softball game – it's all a part of dressing for the situation. Think of dressing for family occasions the same way and you won't mind making a few small adjustments to your personal style.



Try this velvet top by AbbeyPost for the perfect holiday look!

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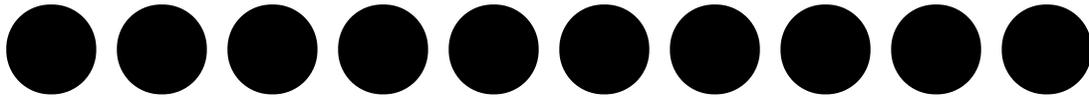
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