

Legs on Display

by Pamela Fay

Hosiery used to be considered grown-up, chic and sophisticated. The best kind was sheer, silky and ultra feminine. Somehow, when we weren't paying much attention, sheer hosiery became matronly and overdone. In fact, retail sales of sheer hosiery dropped over 42 % between 2000 and 2005. While pantyhose manufactures try to revitalize a sagging hose market once dominated by sheers, women are increasingly looking for more fashion-forward alternatives.

Tights

Tights come in many different colors and textures. When you match the color to your dress, skirt or shorts, they extend the leg line making you appear longer and leggier. But, there are other options as well. For some women, opaque tights are reminiscent of childhood ballet and 80s workout wear. However today, tights appear everywhere from date nights to formal work events. You can wear tights to replace sheer hose. To pick up the fun quotient, there are textured options—even fishnet. Beige-toned fishnets provide an alternative that obscures pale or slightly battered legs while maintaining an edgy and stylish appeal. Footless tights that end at or slightly above the ankle are another option when footed tights seem like too much coverage for your shoes or for the season. Footed tights can be found at stores selling dance wear.

Going Bare

Bare legs can be sexy, particularly if they are toned and evenly colored. Not all legs are toned and evenly colored, however. Leg make-up can hide small bruises while self-tanner can transform legs that have been under cover all winter. You can also purchase lotion at the drugstore that is tone-enhancing. If you are wearing toeless shoes, conventional fashion wisdom says that you should not wear tights. You can, however, wear tights with slingback shoes.

Socks

If you are over the age of 25, think carefully before you wear socks with pumps or ankle boots. Anklets come and go in the fashion world. Pair them with lace up ankle boots for a stylish, but young, alternative. Over-the-knee socks can be worn with shorts or a short skirt. Layer them with sheer, or even colored, tights for additional warmth and to keep them from sliding down your legs.

Boots and Other Shoes

Boots can hide legs that don't want to be seen, either because you've skipped the gym too many times or they are ghostly pale. Knee-high boots in combination with a skirt that ends above the knee will keep you covered. You can also opt for over-the-knee boots. They can feel heavy and hot for day-to-day wear, however, unless you live in a cold climate. For summertime, gladiator sandals or shoes with straps or ties that wrap up the leg provide a stylish option to boots.

Leggings

Stretchy leggings are similar to footless tights. However, they are made of more substantial material. The benefit of this material is that it typically contains more shaping and smoothing material than tights. Leggings allow you to wear shorter lengths while containing a small amount of jiggle in the thighs if the jiggle concerns you.

References

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