



Determining Personal Colors

When selecting colors for your wardrobe, consider three factors in regards to your personal coloring: your skin tone, your eye color, and your hair color. Personal coloring gives clues to your best-worn colors in clothing.

The colors you select to wear are important in creating an attractive appearance. Flattering colors can brighten the skin and emphasize the color of the hair and eyes. Unflattering colors can make the skin look drained, sallow or unhealthy. Taking the time to determine your best colors is important if you want to emphasize the highlights in your hair, accentuate your eye color, plan an attractive wardrobe, and avoid wasting money on unflattering clothing.

Your personal coloring can indicate the color family, brightness, and intensity you will want to use for colors in your wardrobe. Skin color is the most important consideration used to achieve a desirable wardrobe color scheme.

As you begin the search for your most flattering colors, you must determine the underlying color in your complexion. Is it warm or cool? Warm complexions have yellow, peach, or red undertones, while cool complexions have pink, violet, or blue undertones.

To determine your basic coloring, analyze your skin without makeup. Be sure to use natural or in-candescent lighting, fluorescent lighting can alter the appearance of colors. Now, look at your face in a mirror. What are the prominent colors that you see? Most skin, regardless of race or tan, will have undertones of yellow, red, pink or blue. If you have trouble determining the color on your face, look at the inside of your wrist. If the veins are blue or purple, you have a cool tone. If they appear green or have a yellow cast, then you have a warm tone.

After determining your basic skin tone (warm or cool), consider the color of your hair and eyes. These three – skin, hair, and eyes – make up your personal coloring and should be considered when selecting clothing. Colors that flatter your skin usually look good with your hair and eye coloring.

To determine which colors are top choices, assemble a variety of colored fabrics. Consult a color wheel so that you can find as many different colors, shades and tints as possible. Drape the fabrics under your chin and around your shoulders one at a time to find colors that complement your skin, hair and eyes.

Ask yourself the following questions about each color:

- How does my complexion appear – sallow, vibrant, etc.?
- Does this color cause skin imperfections or wrinkles to be less noticeable?
- Does the color bring out the highlights in my hair?
- Are my eyes accentuated with this color?

You can enhance your individual features if you know how to choose colors to match your eyes, skin tone and hair color.

