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Kelly Millar, clothing stylist

07-31-07

Nancy C. emailed us at expert@sweetspot.ca: *Is it inappropriate to wear a skirt to work without wearing hose? What about summer tops and other seasonal clothes? (It is stifling when it is hot, but then again, I also don't want to give the wrong impression.)*

...and our clothing stylist, Kelly Millar, answered:

Wearing summer styles from nine to five is tricky. Choosing which pieces (including bare legs) are appropriate mostly depends on your office environment:

Corporate offices. In a very conservative environment (such as a law office), wearing a skirt without hose is inappropriate. For corporate offices in general, it is not appropriate to have bare legs. A nice alternative are stockings and garters – we often think they are too fancy, but in reality they've been around much longer and are very practical for warmer weather.

Casual offices. For most other office environments (which are less conservative), it is absolutely appropriate to wear summer skirts without hose.

Every office. You can wear summer tops and dresses, as long as the style is right for your particular office environment. The best solution is to wear a jacket to work and remove it once you're at your desk. Having something to cover you up is handy for a meeting or coming and going from the office. A jacket can be thrown on in a moment's notice.

Kelly Millar is a fashion stylist and owner of Kelly Millar Image Consulting in Toronto. She may be reached at www.km-ic.com; info@km-ic.com; 647-283-3712.



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