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**Kelly Millar**, *clothing stylist*

07-31-07

**Nancy C. emailed us at [expert@sweetspot.ca](mailto: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](http://www.km-ic.com); [info@km-ic.com](mailto:info@km-ic.com); 647-283-3712.*



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