

style step

Your Christmas party dress dilemmas answered! Create your perfect party look.



John Lewis Collection £79

John Lewis. It makes sense to pay as much as you can for the dress if you require it to be truly versatile. It will serve you well for years to come. Now comes the fun bit: adding the bling! For parties, consider large-scale costume jewellery, patterned or coloured tights and killer heels. If you suit a very dramatic look how about adding long gloves or even a feather boa or faux fur stole for a touch of elegance? A brooch, a cuff-style bracelet, and a gorgeous clutch will all add something really special to a simple dress.

The same dress can be worn for a less dressy event simply by changing the accessories. Consider layering it with a long sleeved t-shirt to add warmth and create a more casual look. You could also add a scarf in a good colour for your skin tone or a waterfall cardigan.

Q. What if I turn up at a party and find other people wearing the same dress as me?

This is the ultimate worry, but it is all about how you wear your dress. There is always the possibility of someone else rocking up in the same outfit but if you stick to the rules above and wear it in your own style, you can be safe in the knowledge that you are looking the best!

Q. How do I dress to look glamorous but stay warm for the taxi queue later?

A wool coat is super warm and not necessarily bulky, one that covers your bottom will be extra cosy. Pashmina scarves are perfect for the taxi queue. Arrive at the party with your scarf prettily draped across

I recently posted a question on Facebook: 'What is your biggest dilemma when it comes to Christmas party dressing?'. Thanks to the deluge of responses I am able to bring you a question and answer session to help you to dazzle at your Christmas party this year! Here are some of your questions, and my answers.

Q. How can I create a versatile look that will work for more than just one party?

A. This is all about investment dressing. Find yourself a fabulously fitting, simple dress such as this one from

your shoulders or tied loosely around your neck, Once you are outside and freezing your bits off, wrap it snood style over your head and neck to keep you super cosy! Oh , and why not add a splash of colour this winter by investing in some leather gloves too!

Q. I would like to try something other than black this year, what do you suggest?

Red is huge this year but to get it right you need the correct tone for your colouring. If you have had your colours done, this should be easy but just to remind you: springs look great in a warm, bright red, summers should opt for burgundy. Those with autumn colouring can opt for a slightly burnt red with warm tones and for winters, true red is simply stunning! If you haven't yet had your colours done try experimenting in a good light with different tones to see which light up your complexion.

Q. What can I wear to a party that is less formal than a dress yet more formal than jeans?

A. Wearing separates is the key here and this links back to the first question. Buying a pair of good quality trousers that can be worn at any occasion where jeans aren't appropriate is a great investment. You can dress them up as much as the occasion requires! Glitzy tops and patent heels will take you from a wedding reception to a Christmas party and a well fitting shirt and boots make them just right for the office.

Wearing trousers or a skirt and top in the same colour will make you look taller and slimmer while giving you more versatility for different occasions.

Stuck for a gift idea?

"...better than a spa treatment as the effects last forever!"
"...it's like shopping with the lights turned on!"

These are just two of the fabulous comments I have had this year from ladies that have been treated to a session at StyleStep.

Maybe you have a family member or a good friend that deserves a style confidence boost. StyleStep gift vouchers make a wonderful, unique gift and start at just £10.

Contact me on 07773 800168 for more information.

**Wishing you a wonderful Christmas, and a stylish New Year
Helen x**



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