



EBONY ENSEMBLES

for a different summer

FOCUS ON THE FABRIC

It all comes down to the fabric when talking about comfort, be it whichever season. And as we are talking about black in summer, look for the most breathable, lightweight and airy fabric you can get your hands on. Cottons, chiffons and linens are by far some of the most comfortable fabrics to drape on when under the scorching sun even when they are in shades of black. So the next time you want to buy those beautiful black pants, make sure to check the fabric too.

TAILORING IS KEY

We do not always find our desirable pieces in stores, and even if we do, finding something in black that is wearable for summer is pretty rare. That is what our trusted tailors are for, are they not? For those who live and breathe the dark life, this is where you let your creativity soar- hand over your choice of fabric and laces and have the tailor make your clothes, throw on some patterns and bolds, some pops of colours if you please, a little detailing here and there and most importantly your all-time favourite – blacks.

VENTILATION MATTERS

Nothing says summer like some good old sheer fabrics

and crochets to keep some ventilation throughout the day. Layer on cardigans or coats tailored with sheer fabrics to both give volume to your attire along with staying in the colour zones and being comfortable. The same goes for crochets - shirts, tops or dresses, the immense ventilation will keep you cool while you stay true to your black ensemble. One great thing about this is that you can switch the parts between different clothes to create a different look every other time.

DRESSES

As tough of a job wearing black pants are in summer, dresses provide an easier way out. Bright long floaty sundresses are definitely a summer staple, but they look just as beautiful in black. And just because they are black does not mean they have to be solid. Look for eye-catching patterns- small and big, maybe some lace detailing that adds to the flowing feel, or maybe some ruffles and chiffon? Either way a black summer dress will please your cravings for depth and comfort in one, and not to mention its functionality as a formal piece with a slight changes in accessories.

SWITCH IT UP

Although a bummer for tops, but being unable to prop-

erly make out textures and fabrics can be a wonderful advantage when it comes to pants. Switch up your everyday heavy duty black pants for more comfortable alternatives in the same colour. When no one can tell if what you are wearing are sweat pants, joggers or palazzos, you can step out in pretty much anything of your choice without having to worry about it pairing well. Also we all know that a black pant layers well with pretty much everything, so that is definitely a win. On the other hand, skirts also provide a great alternative when you want something light and airy but black at the same time.

HALF 'N HALF

If you feel uncomfortable or just not yet ready to step out looking like men in black, no worries, let us just get started with baby steps. Start by adding one single black element at a time, until you are confident to step out in it wholly. Best stick to colours in the same family like whites and greys, and slowly transition into an entire ebony get-up. You can even add in hints of black and



If you are someone who loves leather, sway towards skirts, for black leather jackets might be a bit too much for the weather. Add on a white airy shirt to bring in some neutrality, or simply stick to a black tee for a grungier look.

Gold accessories complement black in a beautiful manner, while silvers or rose-golds might just seem a little too out-of-place. Opt for chunky and architectural jewellery that will definitely provide some dimension.

The Bare Shoulders look or "Off-the-shoulder" tops are definitely for blacks in summer, so let us get cuts into those shoulders to create a beautiful chiselled silhouette that looks chic and is comfortable too.

Sometimes black does not have to be just black, sometimes black is playful - with some colourful embroidery your boring old black dress can be a statement piece, all the colours will just make the black shine more.

white polka dots or stripes amidst all the bold tones to balance it out a bit. White shirts and black pants, black tops and white skirts- simple yet sophisticated.

BRING OUT THE BASICS

It is easy to overdo and lose ourselves amongst all the dark colours, but remember- less is more. Stick to one or two black elements in the whole get up since too much can burn you in this scorching heat. Accessorise heavily, but only at night. During daytime when the sun is at its highest, think sleeveless, flip flops, add on tassels and frills to regular clothes to add in a bit of dimension, tie your hair back into a high pony tail, put on a pair of shades. You are officially ready to take on the heat in the boldest way possible. The best part about summer blacks? You can keep them for winter as well.

The weather might have changed but that does not mean we have to give up on our favourite colour. A few little tweaks here and there, some ventilation to keep us dry, and some smart choices in fabric and designs can help us sport black in a comfortable and non-sweaty way even in summer. So let's get those little black dresses back out shall we?

By Anisha Hassan

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