

#FASHION &amp; BEAUTY

# BELTS ARE BACK!

## Get it right for the perfect shape

Belts can do a lot more for your outfit besides keeping your trousers in place. The right belt can enhance your silhouette and flatter your structure. Belts are also a great way to introduce pops of colour and contrast to outfits which may feel too bland. Here are some trends to look into if you are thinking of adding more belts to your wardrobe.

### WIDE WAIST BELTS

Wide waist belts have been an especially popular accessory due to the recent revival of 2000's fashion. Getting your hands on some wide waist belts in neutral shades are a sophisticated way to bring back the 2000's to your wardrobe. During colder months, wide waist belts are best worn over blazers, cardigans and sweaters. During sunnier days, you can pair it with a loose blouse instead. Depending on your body type, wide waist belts can be strategically worn to give an hourglass effect, so make sure to try different placements before settling on one.

### CHAIN BELTS

Another turn of the century accessory conquering high fashion this season is the chain belt. Chain belts come in various metallic shades and link types, making them adaptable to most wardrobes. You can even substitute chain belts with belly chains if you want something charmed and unique. For a chic and dainty look, you can wear a thinly linked chain belt over a knit top or around high-waist trousers. If you desire something bolder, you can pair a thick, multi-layered chain belt with a velvet blouse.



### SUBSTITUTE WITH A SASH

Although sashes were previously reserved for western weddings and beauty pageants, they have been gradually becoming a fashionable substitute for belts. There are various ways in which you can incorporate a sash into your outfits. For a composed and elegant inclusion of the sash, you can tie it as a Japanese style *obi* belt over sweaters and cardigans. For a more carefree look, you can wear it over jumpsuits or rompers and tie a loose knot to the side. For a delicately feminine outfit, tie your sash into a bow the next time you sport a shirt-dress.

### ROPE BELTS

Although rope belts have been around for a

while, this nautical accessory can still bring a whimsical element to new wardrobes. If you are a fan of bohemian outfits and earthy shades, a sand coloured rope belt is a great buy.

Rope belts with tassels on the ends can help elevate the free-spirited nature of the accessory. If you want to make rope belts more office appropriate, you can go for a white rope belt with metallic caps to contrast trousers and blouses in darker hues. The convenient thing about these belts is that they are super easy to make at home if you have the right type of rope.

### BLENDED IN

Matching the colours of belts with trousers and dresses can add more dimension to your clothing in subtle ways. The key to this style is to ensure that the belt blends in with your pants, with only the texture appearing different. The shades of the trouser fabric and the belt strap should ideally display identical tonal hues. While this pairing works well with most colours, they are especially appealing when executed on bright warm hues or jewel tones. This small detail can help add layers to outfits, which may feel a bit lacklustre otherwise.

Before you go belt shopping, remember that belts can be worn over tops and dresses as well, even without belt loops.

It also helps to keep the broader colour scheme of your wardrobe in mind as belts look best when they match the accent of your accessories and shoes. Lastly, some belts are seasonal, just like other clothing items. While cloth belts can masterfully enhance summer and spring outfits, leather belts go well during winter and fall.

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