

Guide for 1950s Attire

Post-war optimism led to a 1950s fashion full of grace, style, and individuality!

- Hemlines were raised and more fabric was available to make full skirts and use patterns, colors, and embellishments.
- Denim was introduced as an acceptable fashion staple.
- One's style was based on personal taste rather than economic status

Quick Examples:

-Feminine: put on some bright red lipstick and pull your hair back in a high ponytail with a ribbon and add a cardigan sweater and/or a string of pearls.

-Masculine: channel your inner Greaser by slicking back your hair into a ducktail and wear a plain white or black crew neck shirt tucked into a pair of darker jeans.

Style References – Sock hop, Greasers, Beatniks, Ivy League

Additional Clothing:

Feminine:

- Separates, including coordinated skirts, blouses, and jackets as building blocks.
- Stylish 2 pieces suits with sculpted lines and tailored. Jackets with rounded shoulders, fitted thru bodice, and flared at hips.
- Skirts: circle, swing, pencil, and poodle skirts. Plain or floral fabrics.
- Cigarette pants, high waisted with full hips, skinny fit through leg ending just above ankle
- Capri pants (mid-calf)
- Pedal pushers, wide legs stopping at knee
- Denim, dark blue as long, capri, and slim fit. Cuffs thickly rolled when worn.

- Tops were colorful in the 1950s – teal, red, baby blue, gingham, prints, polka dots
- Plain shirts adorned with frills, lace, ruffles, and pleats.
- Sleeves were long, short, cap or sleeveless
- Collars came in many forms
- Fitted button down tops
- Matching couple shirts were a trend!
- Shirts tucked in and buttoned up – cleavage and midriffs were not shown
- Cardigans were popular for layering
- Harrington jackets
- Housedresses with fitted bodice, voluminous skirt, and feminine prints

- Accessories: belts, handkerchief, gloves, purse, medium hoop earrings, pearls, sunglasses
- Makeup with dark eye shadows and bright red lips
- Hair: Pompadour, curls, and ponytails. Scarves, bandanas, headbands.
- Shoes: saddle shoes with bobby socks, ballet flats, kitten heel pumps, slip-on mules, strappy sandals, canvas tennis shoes, stilettos, and more.

- Popular references – Lucille Ball and Sandy or Rizzo from Grease

Masculine:

Depending on the style reference, a combination of the below options were popular:

- Suits: narrower, straighter, less fussy. Blues, greens, burgundy, khaki hues.
- Dress shirts: collars shorter, straighter, rounded corners. White, light blue were most common. Short sleeved was new this decade.
- Blue jeans, chinos, khakis grew in popularity, cuffed 2-4in
- Casual shirts: button down often plaid, knit shirts like polos Tshirt with round collar mostly worn by kids/teens in plain colors, shirt jacket with wide pointed collar
- Cardigans, letterman jackets, bomber jackets, and pullover sweaters

- Shoes: Loafers, boat shoes, saddle shoes, wingtip oxfords, creepers, canvas sneakers, and variety of boots
- Accessories: thinner neckties, bowties, sunglasses, hats (fedoras, flat cap, baseball hat, newsboy cap), thin belts or suspenders, lighters, watches, money clips, cufflinks, thicker eyeglasses
- Hair: crew cut, pompadour, ducktail slicked back, clean-shaven, sideburns

Popular References: Buddy Holly, Elvis, the movie Grease

Enjoy and have fun stepping back into the 1950s!