# How to Build a Capsule Wardrobe That Lasts

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Create a smaller wardrobe around your real climate, routine, and favorite outfits. These 20 steps cover auditing what you own, coordinating core pieces, testing combinations, filling genuine gaps, and caring for clothes so they stay useful longer.

## Things you will need

- One-week clothing and activity log
- Full-length mirror and a camera or phone
- Hangers, folded-storage space, and shelf dividers
- Basic sewing kit and fabric-care tools
- Outfit-gap list and a realistic budget
- Garment-care labels and suitable detergent or storage supplies

## Auditing Your Lifestyle and Existing Clothes

1. **Log every outfit you wear for one week**
   Track the clothes you actually wear for one ordinary week.
2. **Write down your dress codes and hard limits**
   Define your dress codes and non-negotiable practical needs.
3. **Pick a flexible palette from worn favorites**
   Choose a flexible color palette from your existing favorites.
4. **Sort every garment by category and condition**
   Inventory every garment by category and condition.
5. **Set a realistic wardrobe size range**
   Set a working wardrobe range instead of chasing a magic number.

## Selecting Comfortable, Coordinated Core Pieces

6. **Photograph your three most-worn outfits**
   Build the core around your three most-worn outfits.
7. **Move through a full range before you decide**
   Test fit and comfort through a full range of movement.
8. **Match each core top with two bottoms**
   Coordinate tops, bottoms, and layers through repeated combinations.
9. **Choose fabrics your climate and laundry can handle**
   Match fabrics and layers to your climate and care capacity.
10. **Give every pair of shoes a clear job**
    Assign shoes and accessories to clear functional roles.

## Testing Outfits and Filling Genuine Gaps

### 11. Photograph ten complete outfits before shopping

Assemble and photograph ten complete outfits before buying anything.

### 12. Wear-test new combinations on ordinary days

Wear-test the new combinations on ordinary days.

### 13. Repair and clean promising garments first

Repair and clean promising garments before replacing them.

### 14. Turn gaps into a ranked shopping list

Turn the remaining gaps into a prioritized shopping specification.

### 15. Try each candidate against three owned outfits

Evaluate every candidate slowly before committing to it.

## Caring for the Wardrobe and Reviewing It Seasonally

### 16. Arrange the capsule so options stay visible

Organize the finished capsule so every option is visible.

### 17. Follow the care label instead of a habit

Follow each garment's care label rather than a universal washing rule.

### 18. Dry knitwear flat and reshape it damp

Wash and dry knitwear according to its fiber and construction.

### 19. Clean and inspect items before seasonal storage

Rotate seasonal pieces with a cleaning and maintenance check.

### 20. Review the capsule each season and adjust

Review the capsule every season and change one gap at a time.

## Sources


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Written as a checklist from https://www.howcompass.com/how-to/Build-a-Capsule-Wardrobe-That-Lasts. Corrections: https://www.howcompass