

The Frugal Fashionista

How to look like a million bucks for under \$20.00.

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Gals, you don't have to break the bank to keep yourself looking fabulously fashionable.

We all want to freshen up our look from one season to the next, but it shouldn't mean feeling like you have to go out and buy a whole new wardrobe every season. If you like fashion and follow the latest runway trends, great. Take a look at what designers are showing—decide which styles catch your eye and will make a good fit for your figure. Don't be fooled by the thin models, girls, because those styles can look great on the curvy and full-figured gal as well. Things are changing—finally.

The fashion industry is realizing that they're reaching less than 50 percent of the market by designing for women size 12 and under. The fact is, the average American woman wears size 14

and up, which accounts for 67 percent of the population—and the fashion world is catching on.

The first thing you'll want to do is assess your current wardrobe. Get rid of the pieces that you thought you might wear someday but never do. Next, organize your closet by color and type, so that you can see what you have and what you still need. You'll be amazed at the clarity you'll feel. Keep the pieces that have some great lines and details.

Put together outfits with what you have. You will be left with your favorites and a few classic, but plain pieces that may require accessories and a few new bottoms or tops for some fabulous new looks. This is where the fun begins.

Remember that you have options. If you like to keep it local and green, and if you're financially savvy, check out your local consignment store—they ought to have a great selection of quality clothing, shoes, accessories and jewelry; \$20 can go a long way here.

There are usually lots of new items in current styles with the

tags still attached—a result of online buying (and mistakes that routinely occur). Returning items can be a colossal hassle which can equate to some real scores, priced at about 50-80 percent off retail. You'll often be able to find couture

brands this way.

So have at it gals, guilt-free retail therapy at its finest. It's not to say that this is the only way to shop, but it's worth browsing consignment stores first before heading to Nordstrom's. My man-


tra is simple; repurpose, reuse and refuse to pay retail—ever!

Clarissa Edelon is the owner of Fabulous Finds Upscale Consignment at 600 South Airport Road in Longmont. You can reach her at 720-340-4152.



Photo by Donna Currie

Clarissa Edelon, owner of Fabulous Finds in Longmont, offers tips on stretching your fashion budget.



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