The Capsule Wardrobe...

A capsule wardrobe is a collection of about 25-35 timeless pieces of clothing, that all could 'go together' so you can create many outfits without having to

own many items.



The idea is that you 'purge' your closet, keep only the things you truly love and wear, and train yourself to stop buying clothing you don't need.

Having a capsule wardrobe or 'minimalist closet' saves you time and money. Heck yes to that!

The actual term 'Capsule Wardrobe' was coined by London boutique owner Susie Faux in the 1970s. She described a capsule wardrobe as being a collection of a few essential items of clothing that don't go out of fashion, such as skirts, trousers, and coats, which can then be augmented with seasonal pieces.

1. Define Your Style

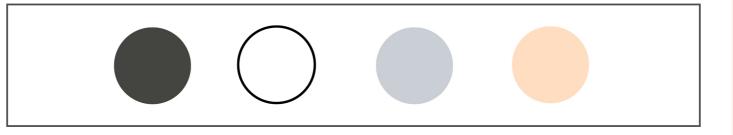
The first thing in curating a capsule wardrobe, is to decide what you want your style to convey. Are you dressy? More casual? What will your colors be? On the next page, use the worksheet draw up your capsule wardrobe color pallet. Determine what your base colors will be for the majority of your capsule wardrobe items, and then determine one or two accent colors. On the worksheet, you will find suggestions for best complimentary accent colors for your skintone. But you can wear any color you like, of course!

I decided my capsule would be black, white, tan & grey, and then have blush pink as the accent color. Keep your colors in mind as you begin step 2.

HOW TO CURATE YOUR PERFECT

Capsule Wardrobe

CAPSULE BASE COLORS



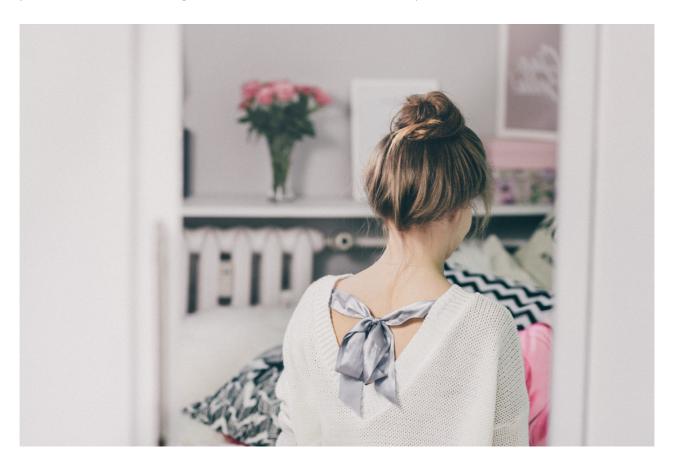
CAPSULE ACCENT COLORS



2. Purge Your Closet

Now it's time to go through your closet and decide what to get rid of, and what can stay and become part of your capsule wardrobe. This is the hardest part in building your capsule wardrobe, but you need to be ruthless, you need to be strong, you need to let go. It can be difficult at first to get rid of all that extra 'stuff' in your life, but I promise, once you start practicing a bit of minimalism, you will find that everything in your life just gets easier. Owning less crap allows you to be happier, more productive, and enjoy the things you actually love.

As a society, we are conditioned to constantly buy, buy, buy, acquire acquire acquire. Until we have much more than we actually need. The practice of minimalism challenges that conditioning and begs us to ask ourselves, "Do I really need more things?" The answer is usually, no



Time To Purge!

Take everything out of your closet - and I mean everything. Lay it all out on your bed/floor so that you can analyze each item.

Create 4 piles: Love It, Sell/Donate It, Toss It, and Not Sure Yet.

Begin sorting your items into their piles. Anything that is tattered, stained, or otherwise unusable goes into the toss pile. Anything that you don't wear, don't love, or don't fit goes into the sell/donate pile. Check out my list of places to sell or donate your items on the blog.



Any items that you aren't sure if you want to keep or get rid of go into a 'Not Sure Yet' box. Close the box and put it in the back of your closet or somewhere in storage, and f you don't think to wear any of those items in 60 days, assume you won't miss them and sell or donate them immediately. If its something you absolutely love, it gets to stay in the 'Love It' pile and will become part of your capsule wardrobe. Try to 'shop' what you already own. You probably already have most of what you need for a capsule wardrobe, you just need to cut out the excess!

3. Plan Your Capsule Wardrobe To Fit Your Lifestyle

On the next page, use the worksheet to write down notes about your particular lifestyle, and the clothing items that you need or don't need to be functional for you.

Your perfect Capsule Wardrobe needs to be functional in suiting your unique lifestyle. If you go out a lot, your capsule will need more dressy clothes, or if you have young kids running around at home, your capsule will need more leggings. As I was purging my closet, I found that I had a lot of clothes that were no longer suitable to my current lifestyle. I had several 'work' clothes leftover from when I worked in an office, but now that I work for myself as a Blog at Home Mom, all my blazers and business casual button up shirts aren't needed anymore (thank god). Decide what's right for your lifestyle and plan your perfect capsule wardrobe items accordingly.





MY LIFESTYLE	MUST-HAVE	DON'T NEED			
	NOTES				
	NOTES				

4. Determine The Number Of Items You Will Allow In Your Capsule Wardrobe

As you are sorting, keep in mind what your most essential clothing items are, and what items you will need for all four seasons. Be ruthless in dedicating the 'Love It' pile to the items you actually do love. Think of an ideal number of items that you want for your capsule Wardrobe, and 'shop' your love it pile to fit in with that number. Use the worksheet included on the next page to help you plan this out.





CAPSULE ITEM LIST

MAX NUMBER OF ITEMS IN MY CAPSULE: _____

TYPE	\checkmark	√	$\sqrt{}$	√	√	$\sqrt{}$	√
PANTS							
SKIRTS							
SHORTS							
DRESSES							
SHIRTS							
TANK TOPS							
SWEATERS							
JACKETS							
SHOES							
ACCESSORIES							\bigcirc
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NOTES							

For my capsule, I decided that I would narrow down my overall wardrobe to 25 pieces. (You can see which items I kept in the image under step #6)

Keeping just 25 items from my gazillion was NOT easy! But I managed to do it! Here is what I kept:



Bottoms: Skinny Jeans (3), Little Black Dress (1), Day Dress (1), Skirts (2) Tops: Dressy Tops (3), Basic Ts (3), Blazers (2), Faux-Leather Jacket (1),

Sweaters (2)

Shoes: Dressy Heels (1), Heel Booties (1), Sneakers (1), Wedge Sandals (1)

Accessories: Scarf (2), Hat (1)

Plus allow for 2-3 additional items per season.

5. Your 4-Season Capsule Wardrobe Budget

Once you have 'shopped' your 'Love It' pile and gotten rid of the rest, you may have room to purchase a few items, depending on how good you were at purging! If this is the case, now is the time to decide on a yearly budget for clothing. This is important. You want your Capsule Wardrobe to be able to be worn all year round, no matter the season. So it is important that you invest in good quality, timeless pieces that will last for years to come. Quality over quantity is your new motto!

After narrowing down items I already had to incorporate into my capsule wardrobe, I didn't need much else. I decided that my yearly budget for spending on clothes is \$500, or \$125 per season.



6. Plan Your Outfits!

Woohoo! You made it this far! Now that you have curated your perfect capsule wardrobe, you can plan your outfit possibilities from the items.