

Clothes shopping has fallen down the priority list for most of us this year, and this shift in attitude has us rethinking our existing wardrobes, says Fashion Editor Michelle Nightingale. To give you a helping hand, we asked some fashion stylists for their tips on refreshing your look - without spending a fortune...

New year, NEW WARDROBE

Keep that summer frock

"Make your wardrobe work harder all year round by dismissing the notion of seasons," advises Karen Williams. "You can achieve an instant summer to winter update with a basic tight black roll-neck and thick black tights worn under a summer dress and paired with boots or trainers."



'Streamline your wardrobe'

says Fashion Stylist Karen Williams • www.karenwilliamstylist.com

Have a good clear out!

"First, you're more likely to wear the things you actually like if you can see them and find them easily," says Karen. "Once you've got organised, style-up your pieces into outfit options and take photographs of the looks you've created. Having these images of the outfit options you have tucked away in your wardrobe gives you a physical reminder and means you're more likely to commit to wearing them."



IDENTIFY YOUR CLASSICS

"There will likely be certain pieces in your wardrobe that will still look modern even if you've had them for a few years - these are your classics," explains Karen. "Certain

colours are timeless, so choose anything in classic shades such as camel, white, chocolate brown, navy, grey and black. You'll then be able to team neutrals with pops of colour to refresh your look."

KAREN'S TOP 10 classic pieces:

- Round neck t-shirts
- V-neck fine knit jumpers
- Roll-neck jumpers
- Chunky cable-knit jumpers and cardigans
- Pleated skirts
- High-waisted trousers
- Knee-high boots
- Trench coats
- Double-breasted blazers
- Wool coats



Burnt orange scarf, £6, Tu at Sainsbury's

Red and navy belts, £6.99 each, M&Co

Affordable upgrades

If your wardrobe still needs a little refresh, these classic accessory updates are an affordable place to start



Zebra print scarf, £9.50, M&S

Saddle bag, £14, George at Asda

Tan corduroy bag, £14, Tu at Sainsbury's

'Improve what you have'

say celebrity stylists Rachel Gold and Isobel Kershaw of Style Myself With Confidence • stylemyselfwithconfidence.com

Rethink your accessories

"Accessories are a pocket-friendly way to finish your look and an easy way to stay on trend without spending much," says Rachel. "Wear the pieces you have in a different way - layer fine necklaces together for a modern feel, or add a colourful belt for a pop of colour."



Rachel

Isobel

BEST FOOT FORWARD

"Give your shoes some care and attention," says Isobel. "Say goodbye to those beyond repair or those you no longer wear. Get any repairs done and give them a clean so they are ready to wear when the occasion arises."



Upcycle for a new look

"Something as simple as replacing plain buttons for colourful or quirky ones can refresh a tired-looking jacket," says Rachel. "And scarves are more versatile than you might think. Wear in your hair, looped through your jeans or even tied onto your bag for extra flair."

Shoes... to you!

It is of course important to support your high street, but if your cobblers is closed (or you can't get out), online shoe repair is an option. Family-run Saddlers4you offers an online repair service and can collect your shoes then return them to you, for a small fee.

■ Call 01749 673298 or visit www.shoerepaironline.co.uk

That's handy!

■ Can't get to the dry cleaners? Try the Dry Cleaner's Secret At-Home Dry Cleaning Cloths (£11.99/6 sheets, Lakeland), which are perfect for freshening up and spot cleaning.



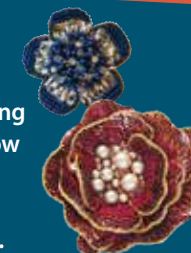
Susie

'Sparkle all year round'

says stylist Susie Hasler, who runs Styled By Susie • styledbysusie.co.uk

Dress up for every occasion

"Rather than keeping clothing for best (or for work), see how you can incorporate fancier items into your everyday casual wear," suggests Susie. "Dress a sequin jacket down with jeans and a white t-shirt or pair a smart white shirt with wide-leg trousers and trainers. You'll get more wear out of your clothes and it can be fun being more creative and mixing styles together."



Easy updates

"If you have a denim shirt or jacket that has seen better days, liven it up with some iron on motifs," suggests Susie. "Pins and brooches work well too and can be found cheaply in charity shops or on eBay. A great way of adding personality to your clothes, the idea can be extended to other items such as bags and scarves, too."

Fight the fade

"Dark clothing can fade quickly and whether it's a pair of dark blue jeans or a black t-shirt, if the colour isn't crisp it can quickly look dated," says Susie. "Luckily there are some great fabric dye options that are as simple as popping the dye in your washing machine. Remember to run your washing machine through on a rinse cycle afterwards though, so your next wash doesn't come out black!"



Dylon Intense Black and Blue Jeans Dye Pods, £7.25 each

Stockists:

Dylon available nationwide and amazon.co.uk; George at Asda 0800 952 0101 www.asda.com; Lakeland 01539 488100 www.lakeland.co.uk; M&Co 0333 202 0720 www.mandco.com; M&S 0333 014 8000 www.marksandspencer.com; Tu at Sainsbury's tuclothing.sainsburys.co.uk. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee availability and prices of items featured on this page