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French Fashion Style Tips: How To Dress Like A Parisian With Advice From Erin Nadler Of Better Styled

The Huffington Post Canada | By Sarah Kelsey
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Parisians definitely have a certain chic sartorial air about themselves.

They can appear casual and elegant without being overdressed or under-dressed, and always seem to maintain a sense of confidence in their style. The laissez-faire approach to fashion is something many people covet -- and the looks they wear are something we all want to emulate on a daily basis.

In an effort to feel a little chicer in our city, we contacted [Erin Nadler of Better Styled](#), a unique personal shopping service in Toronto. Take a cue from her styling tips -- and a few of our favourite products -- and add a little French "je ne sais quoi" to your summer wardrobe's step.

PS: If you're looking for a little more French inspiration, check out [TIFF's 'Summer in France' series, running from July 13 to September 2](#).

How To Dress Like A Parisian



Less Is Always More

Who better to take advice on dressing like the French than from Coco Chanel herself, who believed whenever you leave the house, you should look in the mirror and remove one item from your ensemble. For today's stylists, choose a bold statement necklace, infinity scarf or a too-cute Parisian beret -- but just one! Editing down your accessories before stepping out the door is the quickest way to achieve the ease and simplicity of Parisian style.

Tiffany & Co. 30" Cultured Pearl Necklace, \$12,300. Available at [Tiffany & Co.](#)

Spotlight Dressing

Rather than throwing on every en trend item in your closet, highlight one piece such as a coloured jean or a floral blazer and pair it with an array of classics. The French have perfected the beauty of monochromatic dressing so pair your summer statement piece with streamlined neutrals.

GAP Killer Tomato Ankle Zip Legging Jeans, \$80. Available at [GAP stores nationwide](#)

Choose Flattering Basics

If you have visited Paris, you've probably noticed the abundance of classic colours like black, navy and grey. Parisian style is sleek and streamlined so do not be afraid to embrace the always-flattering darker tones or liven it up with pops of colour or texture. Items like a fitted navy blazer, a black knee-length pencil skirt or a luxurious grey V-neck cashmere sweater will have you in a Paris state of mind in no time.

Smythe Plaid One Button Blazer In Blue Plaid With Caramel Leather Patch. For more information, visit [smytheinvestes.com](#)

Join The Boys Club

Gone is the overly buttoned up style. The look du jour is women wearing their boyfriend jeans or an oversized Oxford shirt, but layering with more structured and feminine items. The mix of the two leads to interes fabulous lace tank.

J. Crew Ludlow Shirt, \$102. Available at [jcrew.com](#)

It's A Wrap

While Parisian style is simple yet sophisticated nothing says elegance like a neatly tied scarf tucked into your favourite blazer. Scarves are the must-have accessory in Paris and no outfit is complete without them. To channel your inner starlet, why not add a fabulous brooch at the side of your scarf or indulge in an oversized wrap -- a fabulous addition to your LBD (little black dress).

Scout And Catalogue Scarves. For more information, visit [scoutandcatalogue.com](#)

Taking It To The Streets

Off the beaten path and edgy are two words to describe Parisian street style. The minimalist days of French cinema have been replaced with the fearless mixing of patterns and textures and oversized blazers paired with slim-legged trousers. The unexpected is expected when discussing the streets of Paris so look out for interesting colour twists, spiked accessories, fuller silhouettes and over-the-top patterns. You won't be disappointed.

Ela Handbags D.D. Tote. For more information, visit [elahandbags.com](#)

Oxford Prep

This menswear inspired shoe is making waves both on and off the runways. Loafers and traditional laced Oxfords are being paired with white ankle socks, coloured tights or trim-cropped pants. Adopting this look for the streets of Canada can be as simple as pairing your favourite dark denim jean and leather blazer -- and don't forget to roll up the bottoms of your jeans.

Sperry Top Sider Shoes. For more information, visit [sperrytopsider.com](#)

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