



43 **Style Pitfalls**

the Modern Professional MUST Avoid

When you notice a professional man, what do you see?

Maybe you notice his suit. Or his shoes. Or perhaps it's just the way he carries himself when he walks into a room. You can't quite put your finger on it, so we'll let you in on his secret.

A well-dressed modern professional hasn't tripped into these 43 style pitfalls that will undermine interns and managers alike.

As we run through this list, you'll likely see a few style sins that you've committed. That's alright. Nobody's perfect. We're here to make sure you don't make these mistakes again so you can look the part and make lasting impressions. Let's get to it!

01

**Not Investing in a Good Pair
of Dress Shoes**

02

Square-Toed Dress Shoes

03

Worn Out or Un-Polished Shoes

04

Sneakers with Dress Pants

05

**Excessively Contrasting
Shoe and Belt Colour**

06

White Socks with Dress Shoes

07

Socks That are Too Short

08

Wearing Worn Out Socks

09

Pants That are Too Long

10

Pleated Pants (They're not for everybody.)

11

Aimlessly Following Trends

12

Over-the-Top Jeans

13

Ill-fitting Jeans

14

Sagging Jeans or Pants

15

Bulging Phones and Wallets

16
Cargo Pants

17
Untucked Dress Shirts

18
Not Enough Buttons

19

**Wearing Shirts that
Don't Fit Right**

20

Wearing Poor Quality Shirts

21

A Visible Undershirt

22

Poor-Fitting Suit

23

Too Many Buttons

24

**Forgetting to Unbutton Jackets
When Sitting**

25

Popped Collars

26

**Wearing a Short-Sleeved
Shirt with a Tie**

27

Ties Too Wide for Your Body

28

Ties that are Too Long

29

Skinny Tie

30

Wearing Tie Bars and Clips

31

Wearing a Vest with a Tie Bar

32

Matching Shirt and Tie

33

Over-the-Top and Dated Bowties

34

Pre-Tied Bow Ties

35

Ties that Don't Show the Dimple

36

Loose Tie Knots

37

**Unnecessarily Complicated
Tie Knots**

38

Wearing Synthetic Material

39

Too Many Patterns

40

Too Much Matching

41

Believing Mall Brands Mean Quality

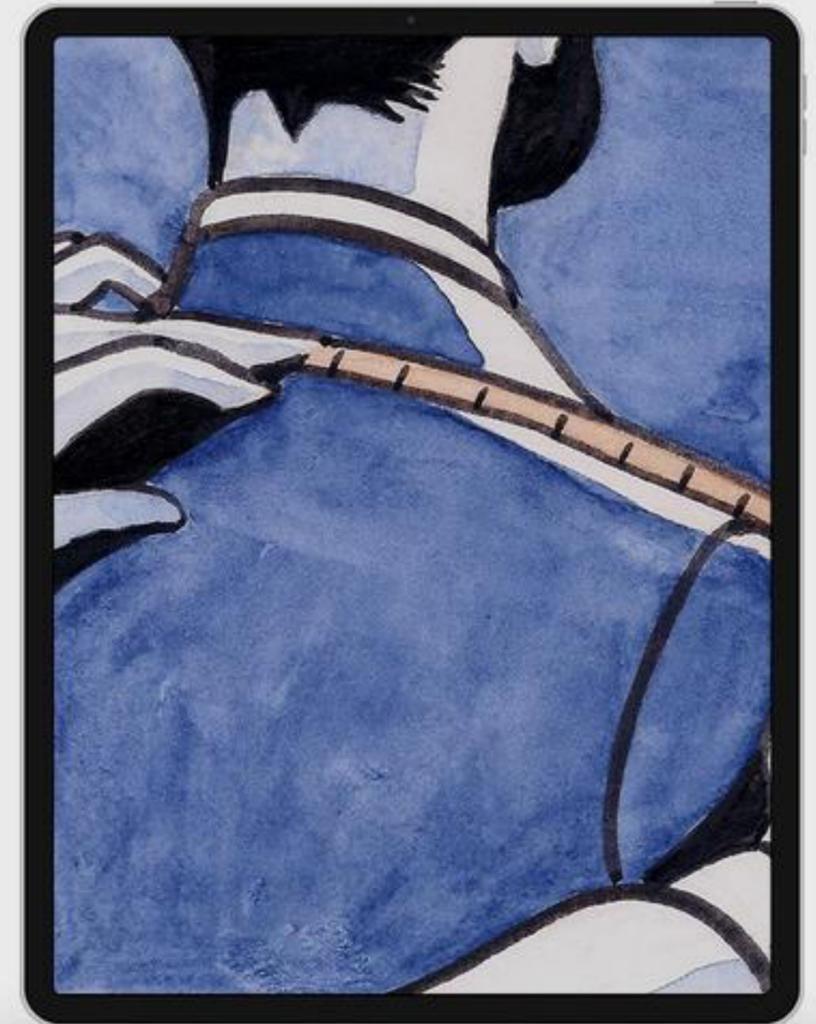
42

Poor Grooming

43

Wearing Too Much Cologne

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Simplify Your Tie.

First impressions matter.
Bad knots and ties are the enemy.
Simplifying your tie is the best way to
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01

Not Investing in a Good Pair of Dress Shoes

If you're not sure where to start, invest in a versatile pair of Oxford dress shoes that you can pair with much of your wardrobe.



[GO BACK](#)

02

Square-Toed Dress Shoes

The square-toed dress shoe gives off a tacky and amateur look. Avoid this type of shoe to show you're a stylish professional with great taste.

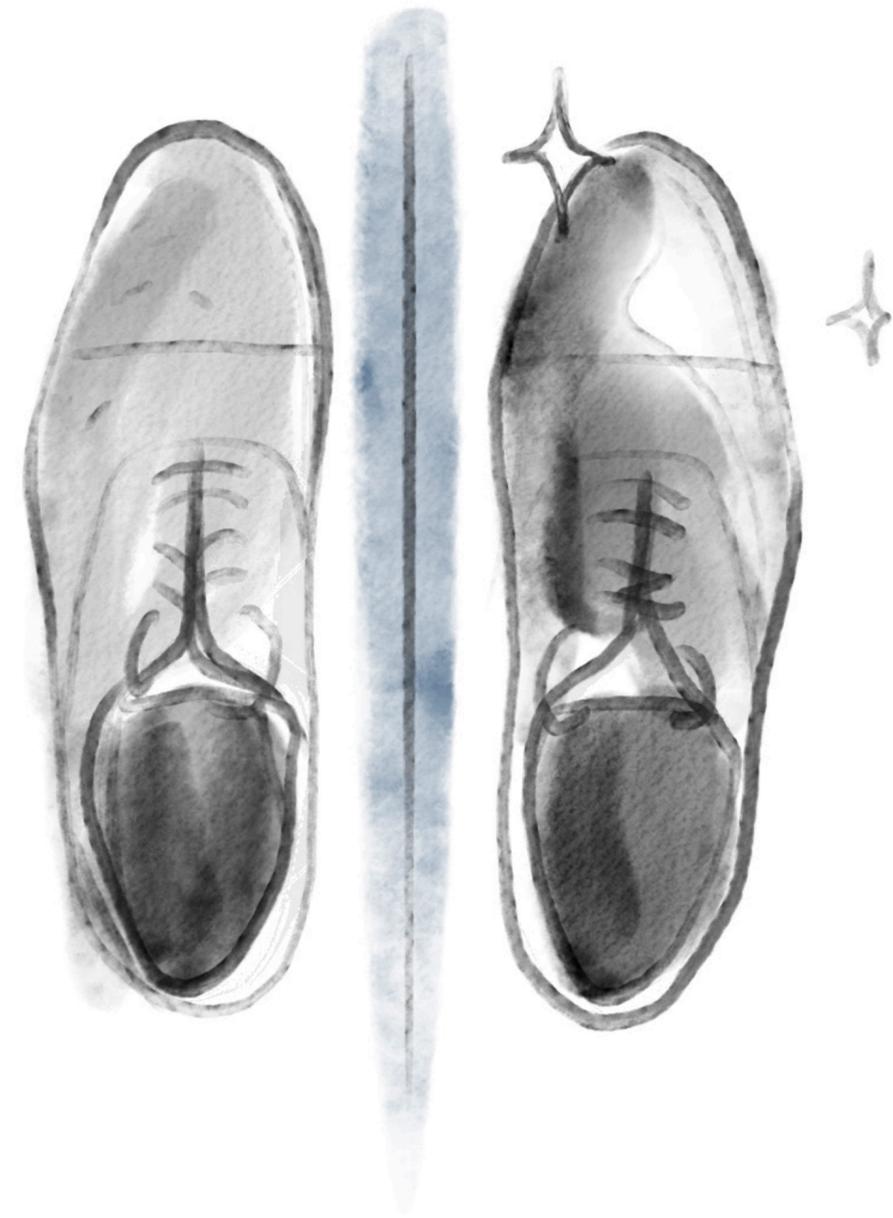


[GO BACK](#)

03

Worn Out or Un-Polished Shoes

Don't fail your immaculate outfit with unpolished or worn out shoes. Spend a few minutes to clean your shoes before you leave the house. You can also spend a little extra and buy long-lasting, high-quality shoes.



GO BACK

04

Sneakers with Dress Pants

While it may work from a style perspective, we suggest picking your spots. Avoid wearing sneakers with dress pants if you want to make a good first impression in a professional environment. If you're dressing for a more casual gathering, by all means, go for it. Remember to dress for the occasion and make sure that each piece of clothing serves to complement not overshadow your overall look.



GO BACK

05

Excessively Contrasting Shoe and Belt Colour

Complex outfits (with numerous colours and patterns) require our brains to process more information. Beauty is in simplicity which lends well to uniformity. When it comes to your belt, aim to wear one that has similar colour to your shoes. Typically that means you wouldn't pair brown with black.



[GO BACK](#)

06

White Socks with Dress Shoes

Like [#5](#) think about contrast and uniformity but this time also consider function. White socks thick or thin will typically contrast with most dress pants unless you're wearing white pants. Our style aesthetic prefers understatement. Reduce sharp contrast with your sock as it will draw attention to your feet. Peers, bosses and clients should look in your eyes, not anywhere else.



GO BACK

07

Socks That are Too Short

If you see leg hair when you sit and cross your legs, it's a good idea to change those socks. They're too short and can be a distracting sight.

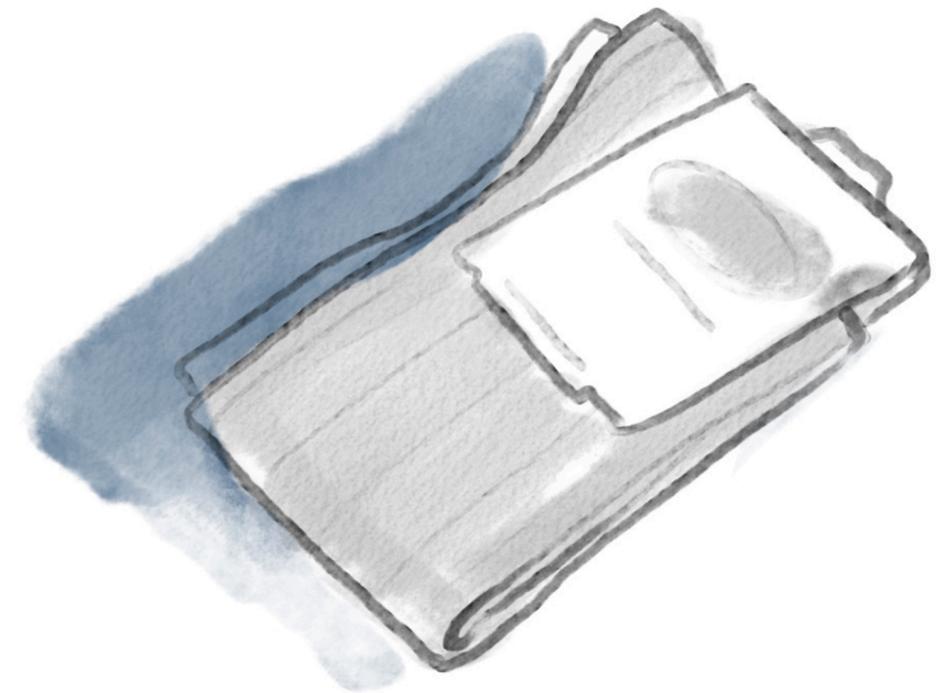


[GO BACK](#)

08

Wearing Worn Out Socks

Men can choose from a lot of great fun and comfortable socks. Plus, they're not incredibly expensive. Toss those old ratty socks and get a pair of new ones that will look better and make you feel more comfortable too.

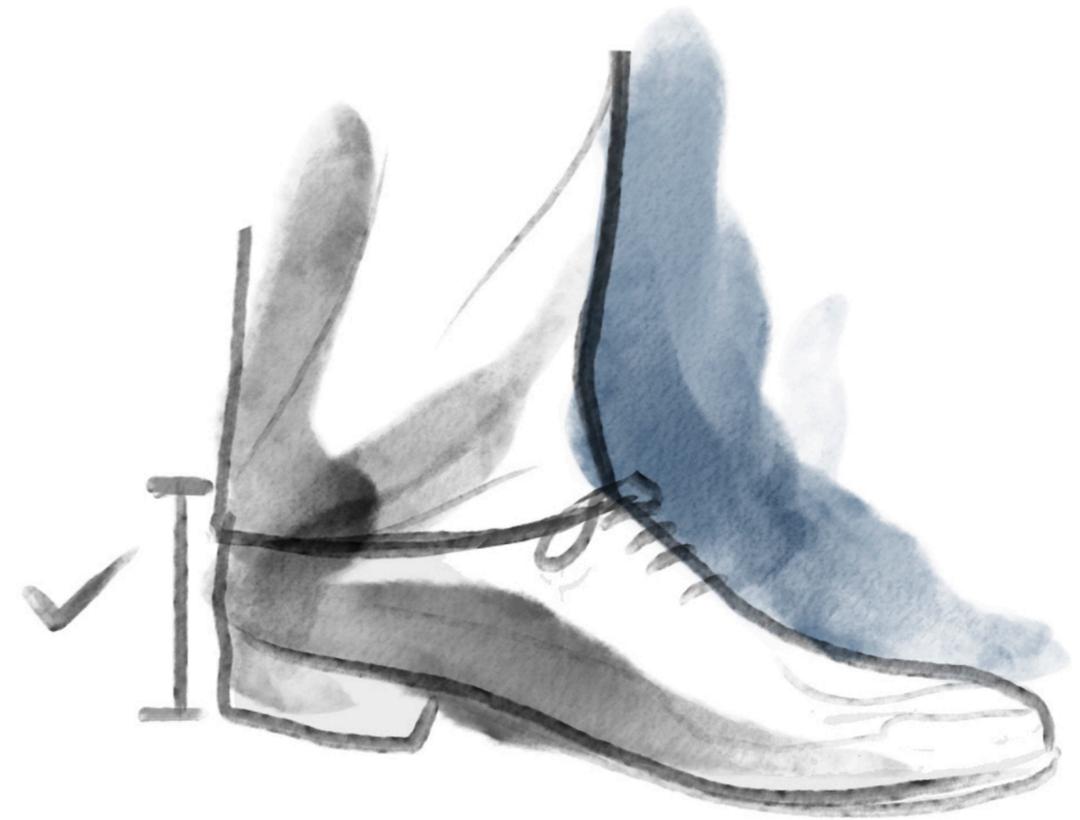


[GO BACK](#)

09

Pants That are Too Long

Your trousers should only touch the tops of your shoes. Bunching fabric at the bottom of your pants will make you look sloppy, and your legs look shorter. Aim for long clean lines and hem your pants to the appropriate length.



GO BACK

10

Pleated Pants (They're not for everybody.)

The pleated pants trend is making a comeback. But just because it's trendy doesn't mean it's for you. It looks great on men with a specific body type (men with a skinny waist). But for others, the additional folds create girth that the average man doesn't need.

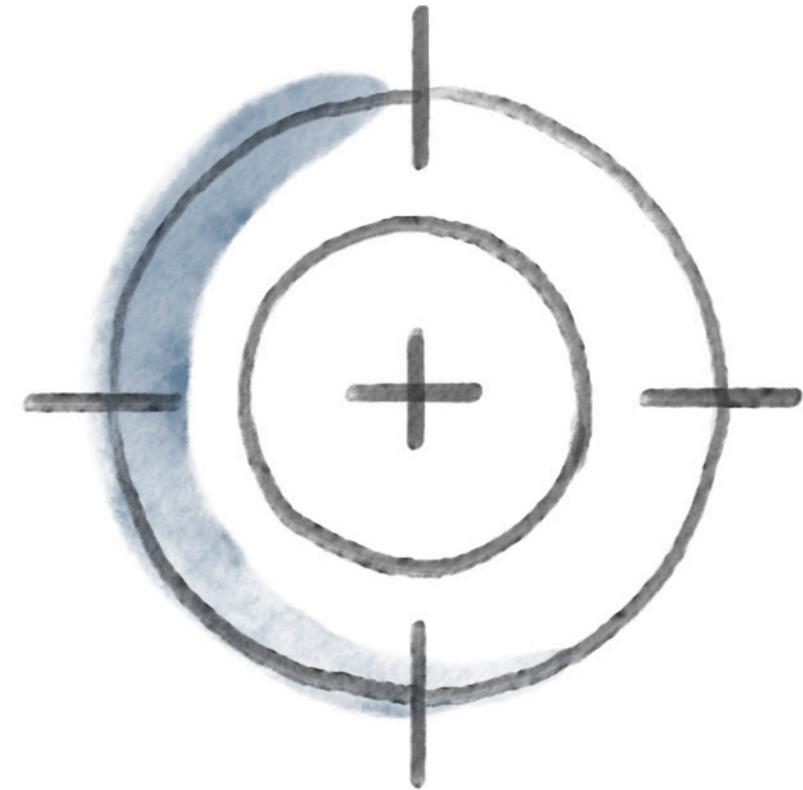


[GO BACK](#)

11

Aimlessly Following Trends

While we're here: just because it's on the red carpet doesn't mean it's for everyone. Trends fade away. Invest in high-quality staples that show your subtle sophistication.



[GO BACK](#)

12

Over-the-Top Jeans

Keep it simple when it comes to jeans. Stay away from "trendy" over-distressed styles. Light washed jeans designed with rips and tears signals amateurism.



GO BACK

13

Ill-fitting Jeans

Show the office energy and vitality on casual Friday with a pair of tapered/slim-fit dark wash jeans. Relax fit and boot-cut jeans can create a shapeless, sloppy and homely look.

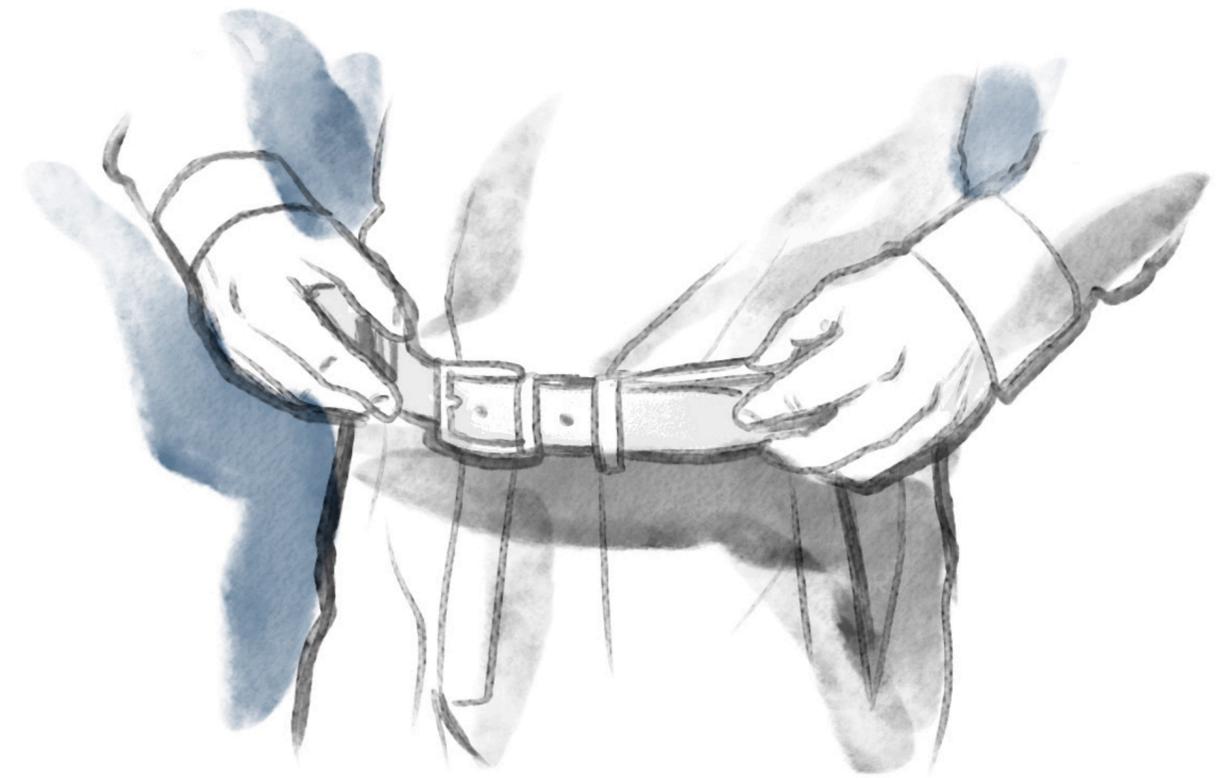


[GO BACK](#)

14

Sagging Jeans or Pants

You shouldn't need to pull up your pants constantly. Wear a belt and save others from seeing the top of your underwear.

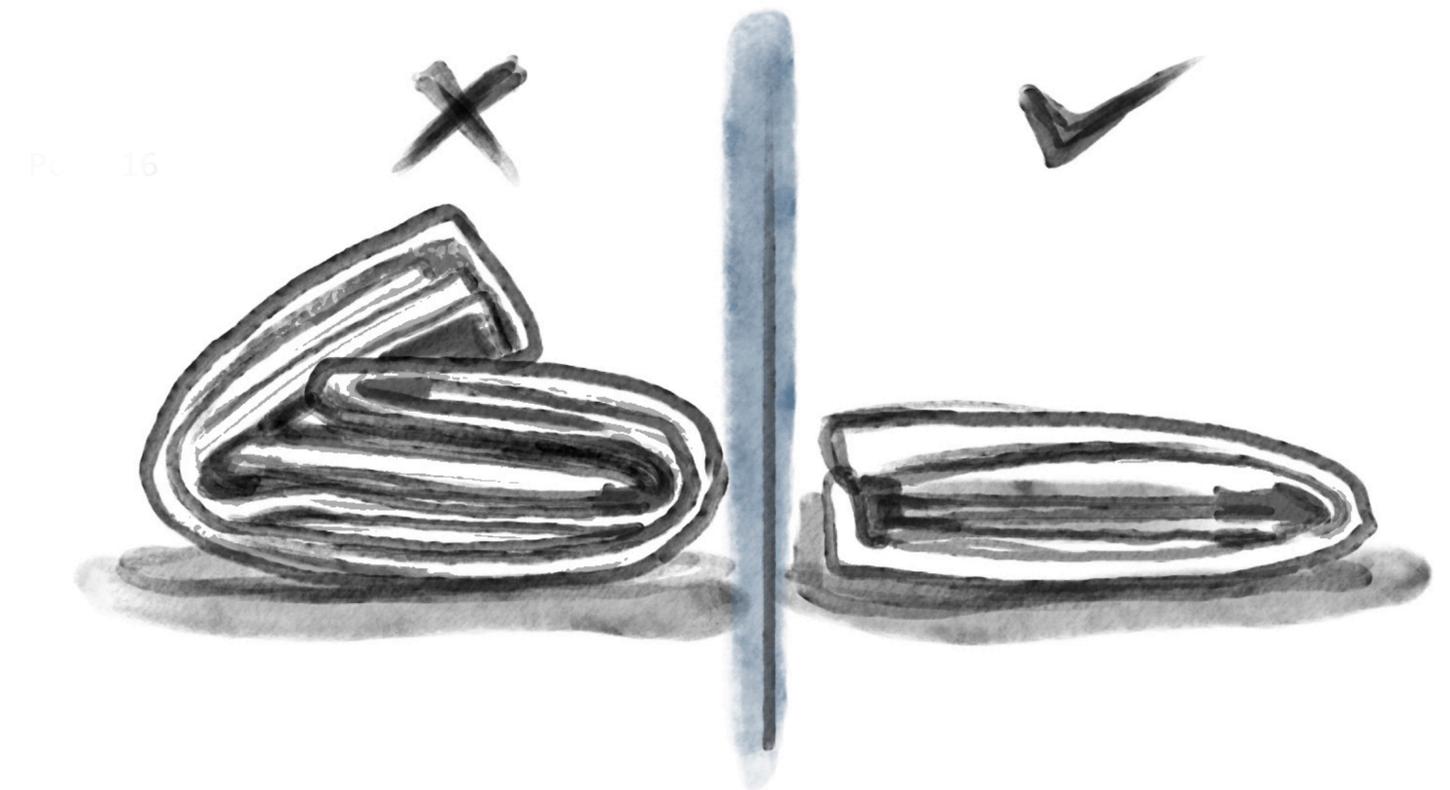


GO BACK

15

Bulging Phones and Wallets

Avoid bulky cases that add heft to your phone. It's also time to remove the unnecessary items that add volume to your wallet. Both are unpleasant sights that mess with the clean lines that you aspire to achieve.

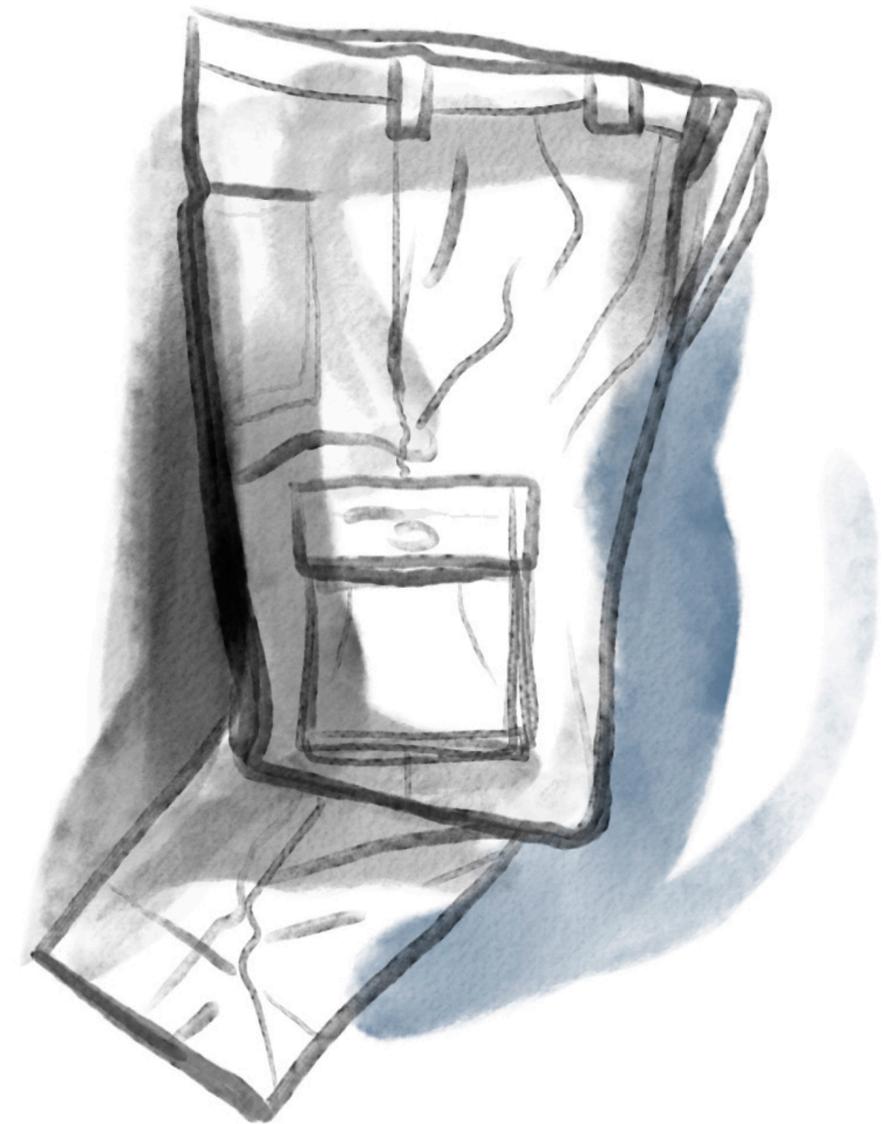


GO BACK

16

Cargo Pants

Cargo pants are more function than form and most suitable when your tasks and activities require clothing with high utility. For work, a night out or social gathering where you're not working with tools, ditch your cargo pants for well-fitting chinos, khakis, jeans or dress pants.

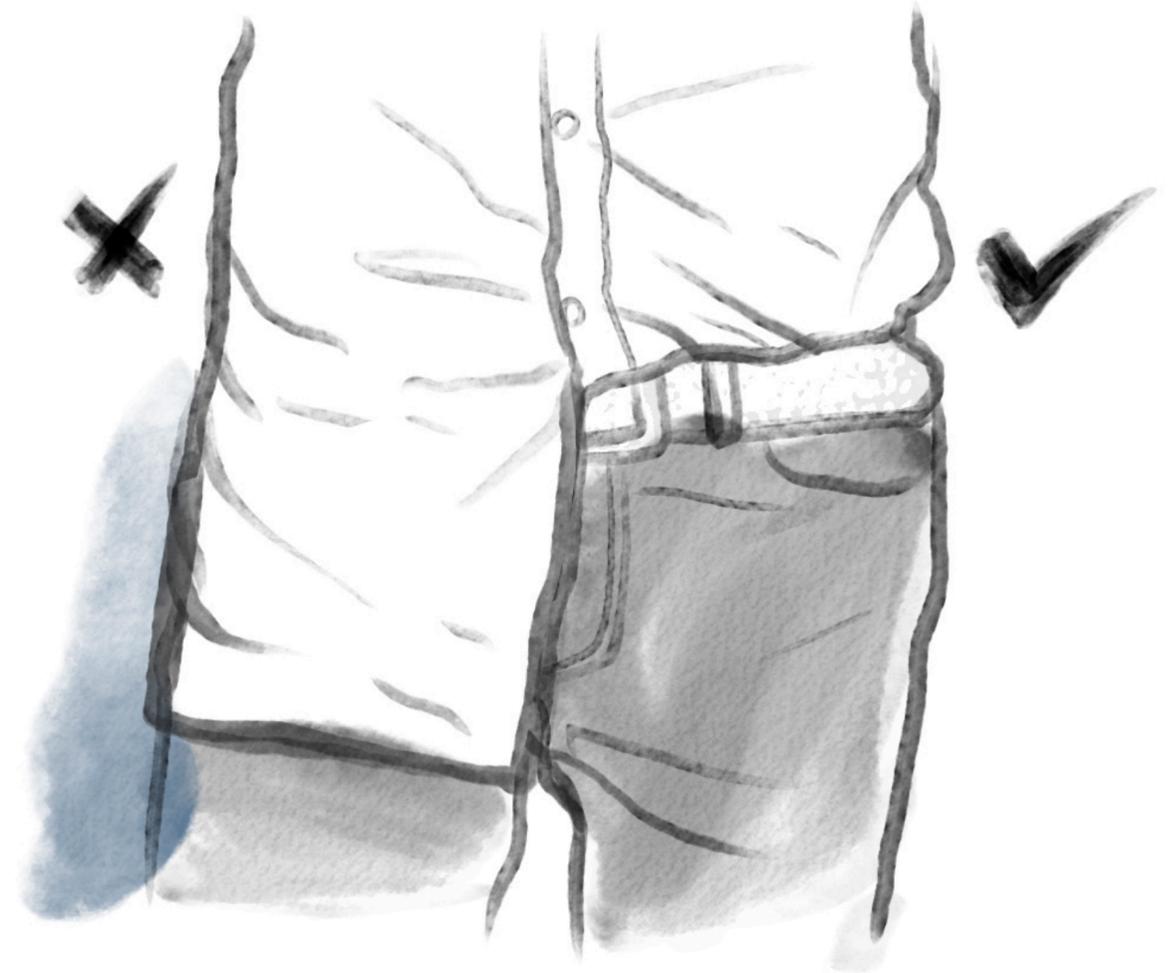


GO BACK

17

Untucked Dress Shirts

Avoid wearing your dress shirt untucked. Dress shirts are designed with long tails, so they stay tucked. If your dress shirt extends past your crotch, tuck it in.



GO BACK

18

Not Enough Buttons

While you should be proud of that mane of chest hair that you have, you should think about when you showcase it to the world. It's not for everyone every time. Pick your spots and always make the best impression.

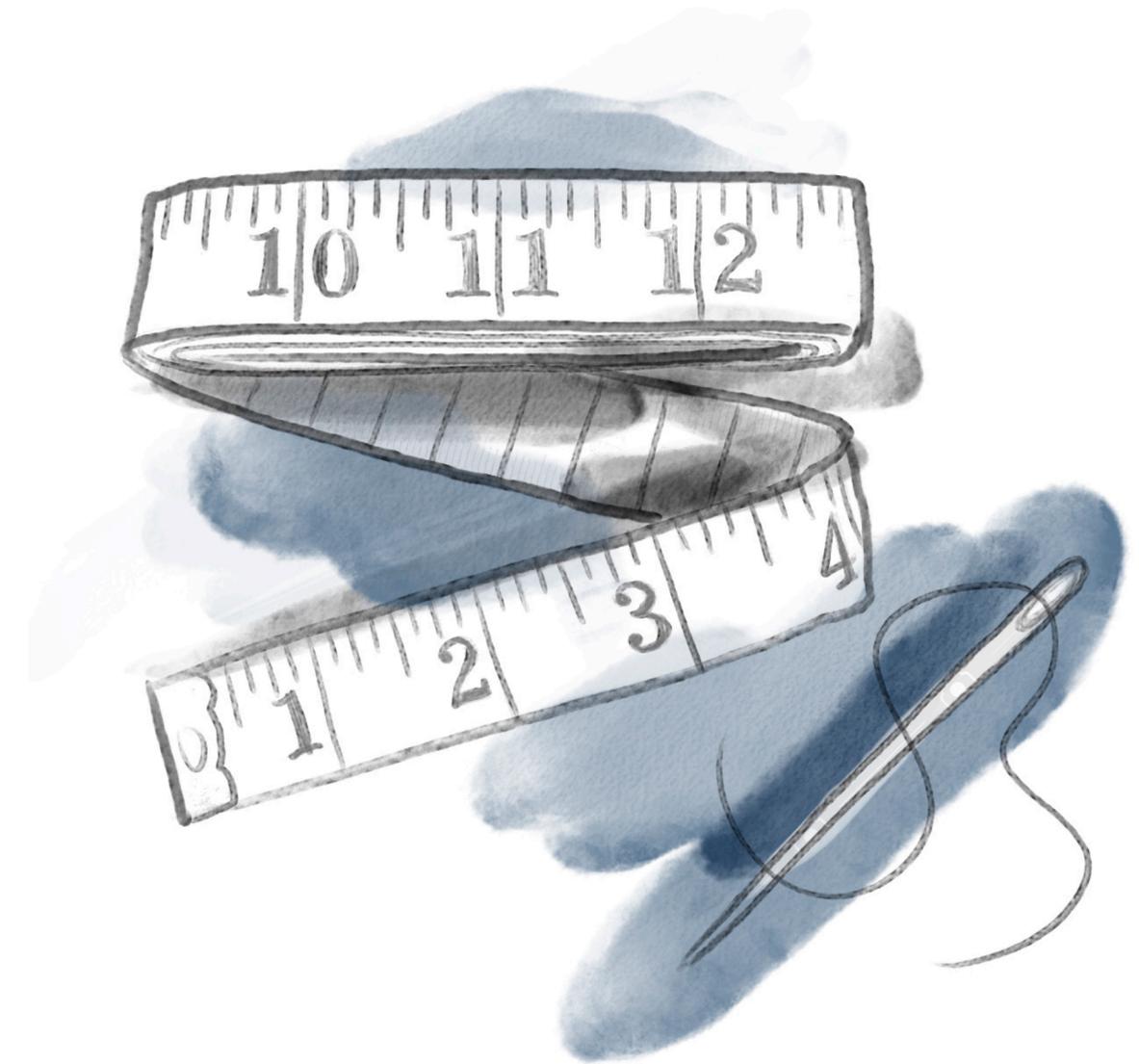


GO BACK

19

Wearing Shirts that Don't Fit Right

Shirts can be a balancing act. Too loose and you look sloppy. Too tight and you look like a sausage that's about to pop. The good news is that a good tailor can help you get to the sweet spot in between.



GO BACK

20

Wearing Poor Quality Shirts

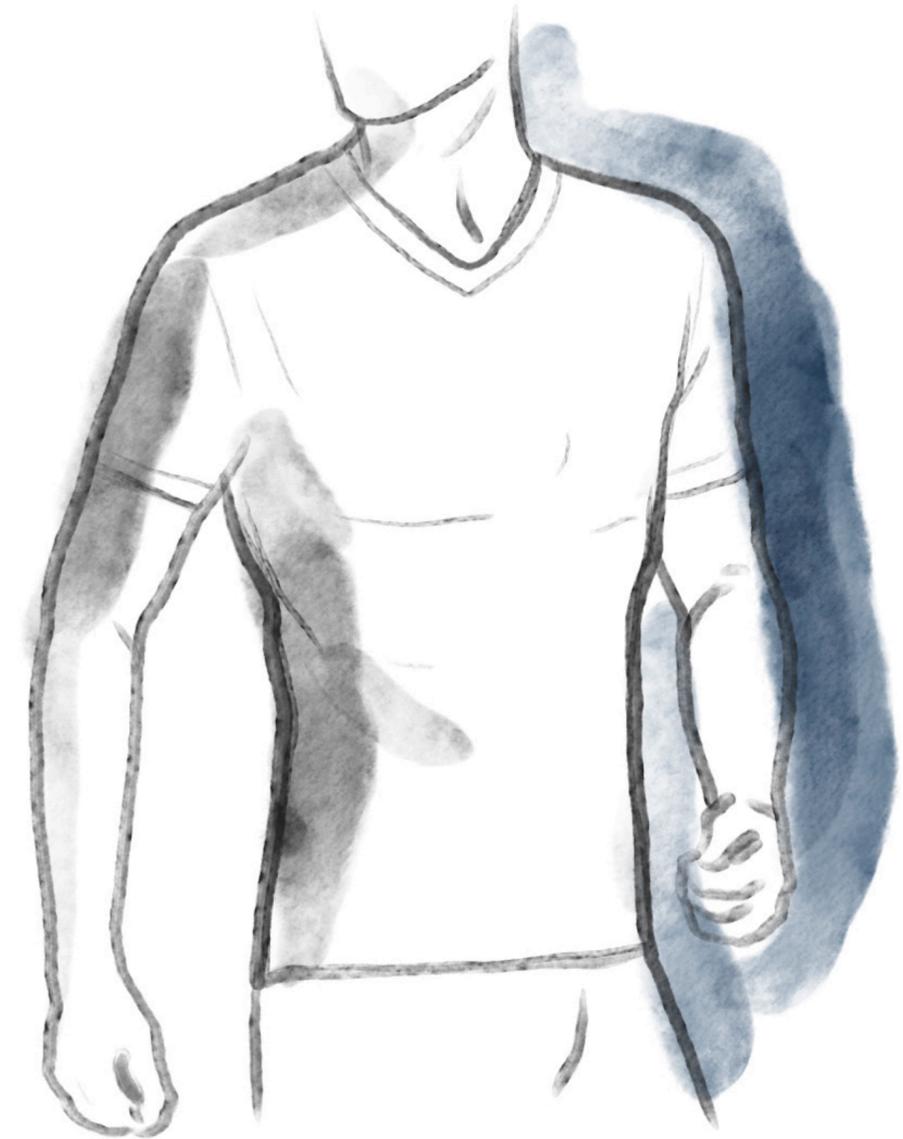
You don't have to have personally-tailored shirts to look amazing. But don't bring yourself down with shirts made of inferior materials. Spend a little extra, and you can get high-quality shirts that look good and last long.



[GO BACK](#)

A Visible Undershirt

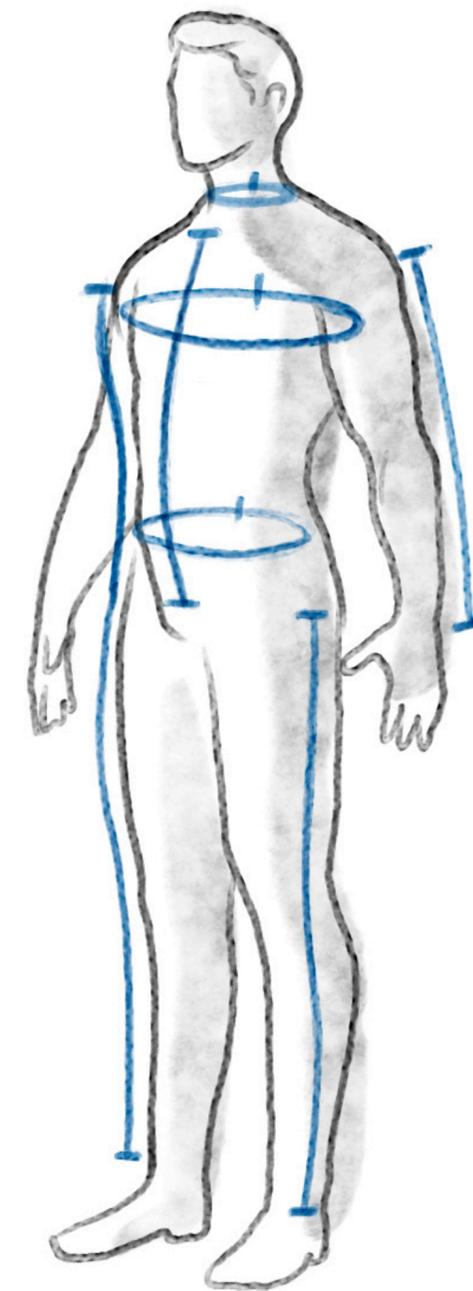
Many men wear undershirts for comfort. However, they refuse to stay hidden creating a sloppy detail. If undershirts are a must, consider wearing a deep v-neck undershirt to help keep the collar hidden. Try to wear an undershirt that blends into your skin tone so your shirt doesn't contrast with your skin. Finally, choose an undershirt made of breathable fabric so you don't overheat.



22

Poor-Fitting Suit

We've mentioned the value of owning clothes tailored to your body shape, but we want to stress it even more. Whether it's suits, dress shirts or pants, you don't want to be blanketed by fabric. You want clothes that are the right length in the right places to show off the best you.

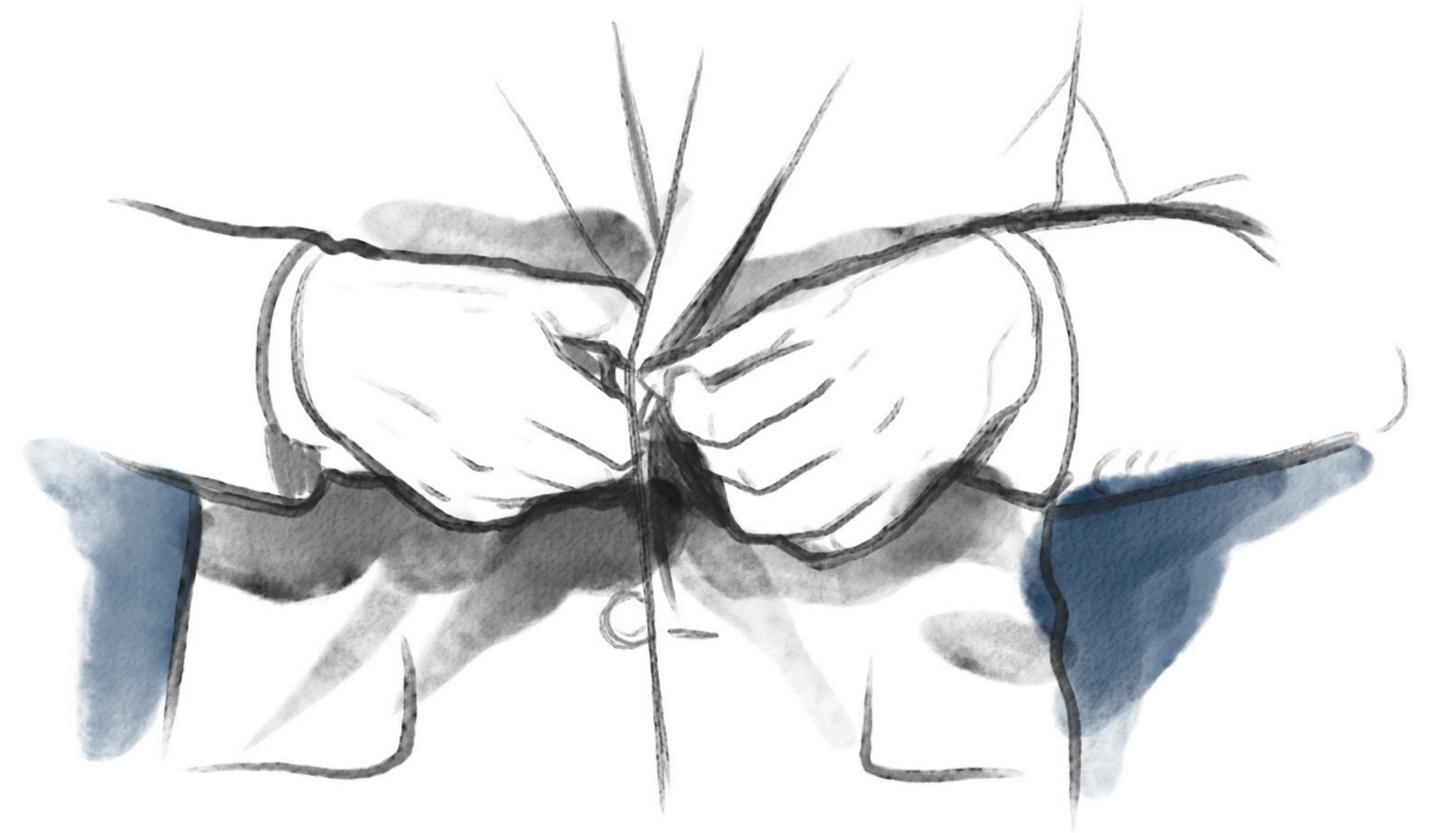


GO BACK

23

Too Many Buttons

When you wear your two-button suit, only do up the top button. Buttoning the bottom button on your jacket causes the tail to flare out ruining the streamlined look that you want. We don't recommend three-button suits in general.

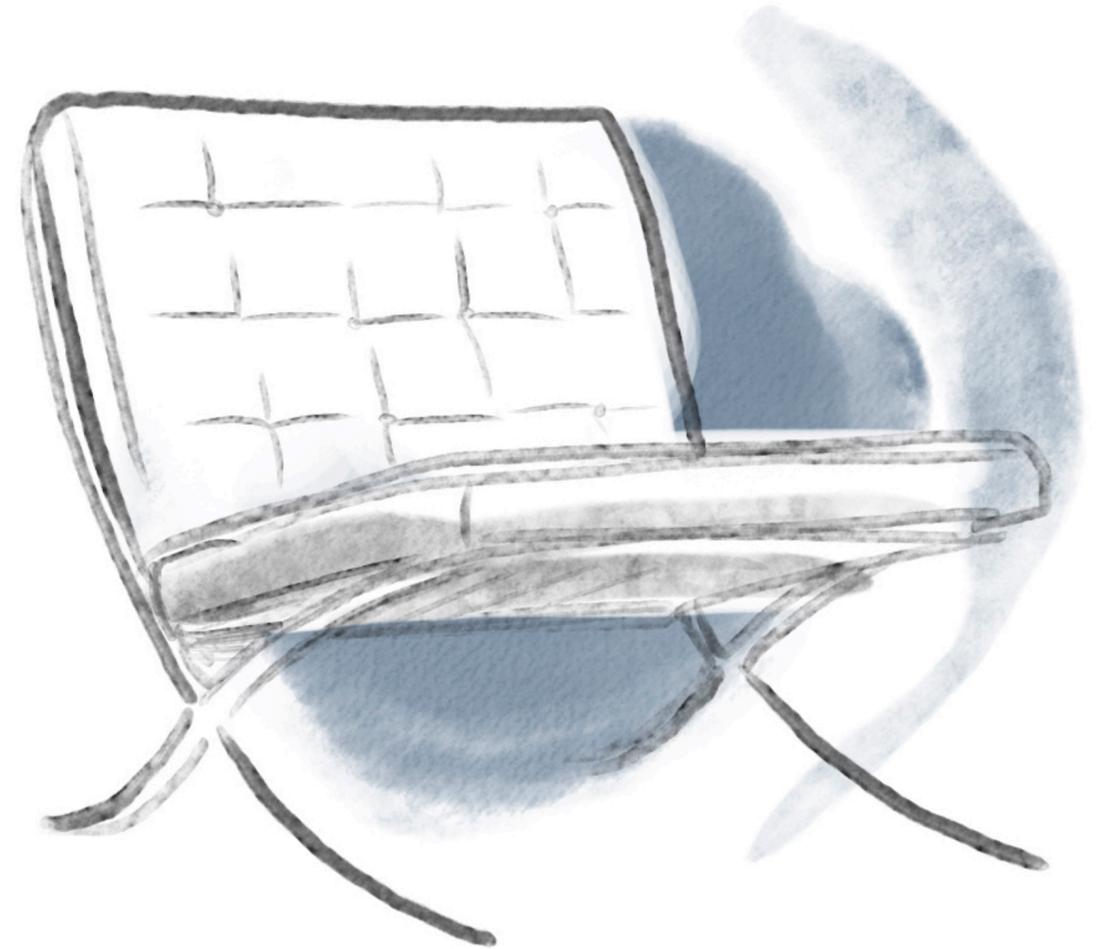


GO BACK

24

Forgetting to Unbutton Jackets When Sitting

It may seem like natural behaviour. Unbutton your jacket when you sit down. But many men still neglect this simple action. Those who don't not only look stiff and uncomfortable, they also stretch the threads of their jacket.

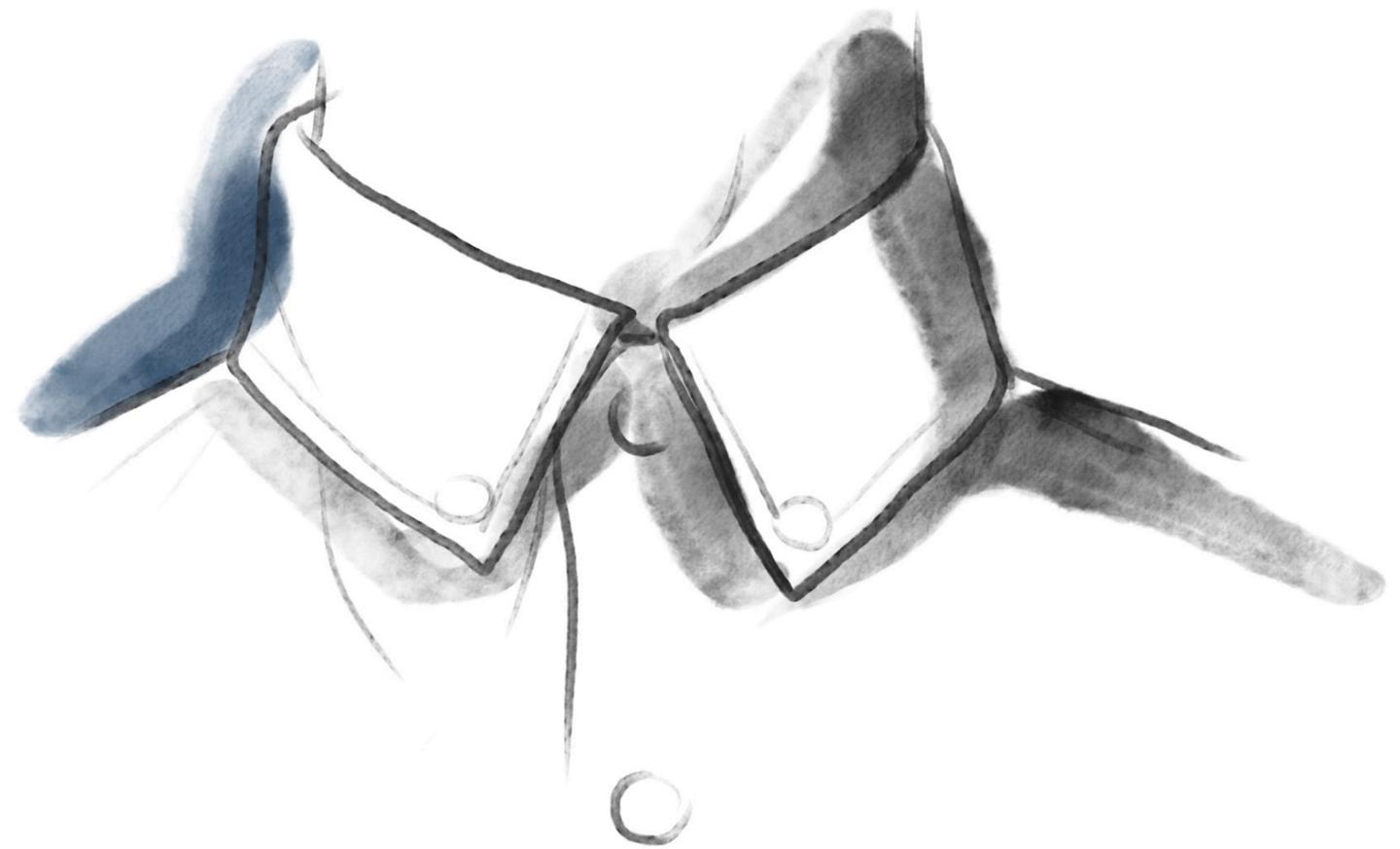


GO BACK

25

Popped Collars

The height of frat boy culture needs to stay where it belongs. Fold that collar back and embrace the amazing sophisticated man you've grown to be.



[GO BACK](#)

26

Wearing a Short-Sleeved Shirt with a Tie

I don't know about you, but this look says "unhappy office drone." Throw on a long-sleeve shirt and a nice jacket. Complete this unfinished look.



GO BACK

27

Ties Too Wide for Your Body

Balanced proportions contribute to an overall aesthetic that's pleasant, suave and sophisticated — wearing a tie that's too wide throws off that delicate balance.



GO BACK

28

Ties that are Too Long

Like a tie that's too wide, a tie that's too long can make you look like a reflection in a funhouse mirror. Tie your tie, so it stops at the top of your belt.

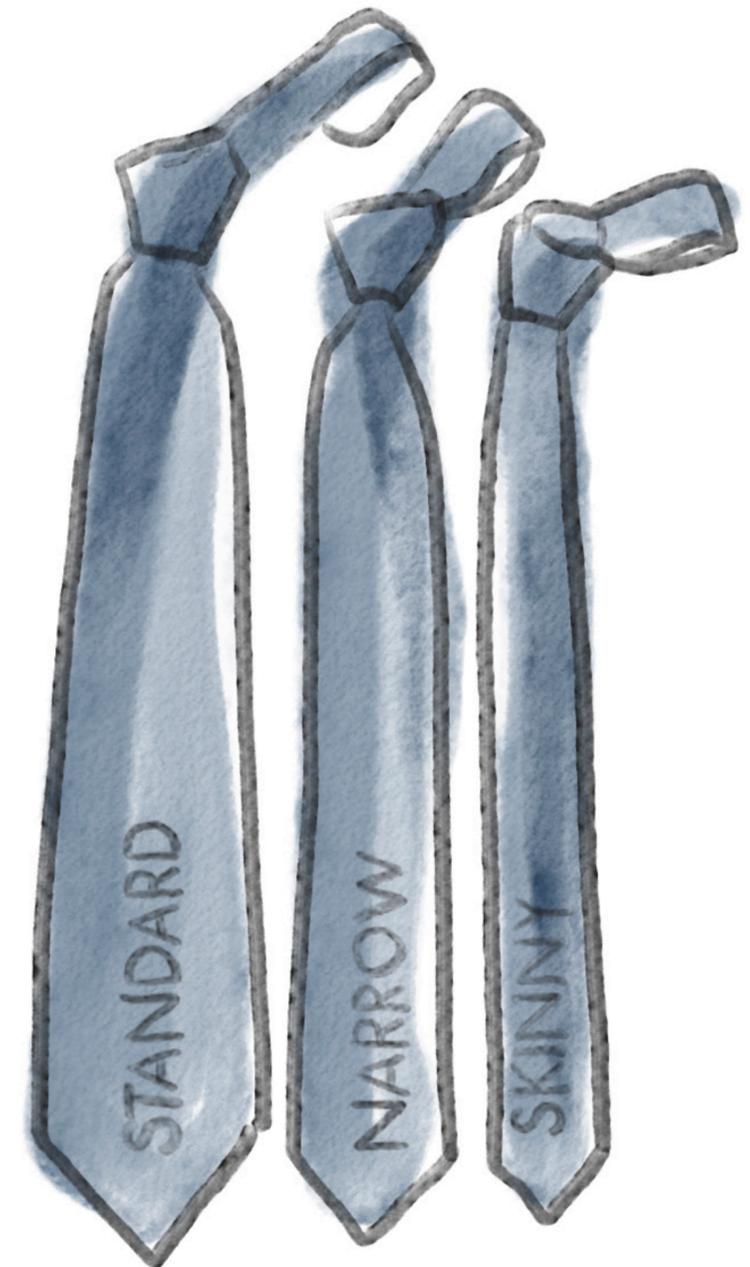


GO BACK

29

Skinny Ties

Not many guys can pull off skinny ties. A few British pop stars lead the list. Aim for your tie to match the width of your jacket lapels. The symmetry adds to a "put together" professional look.

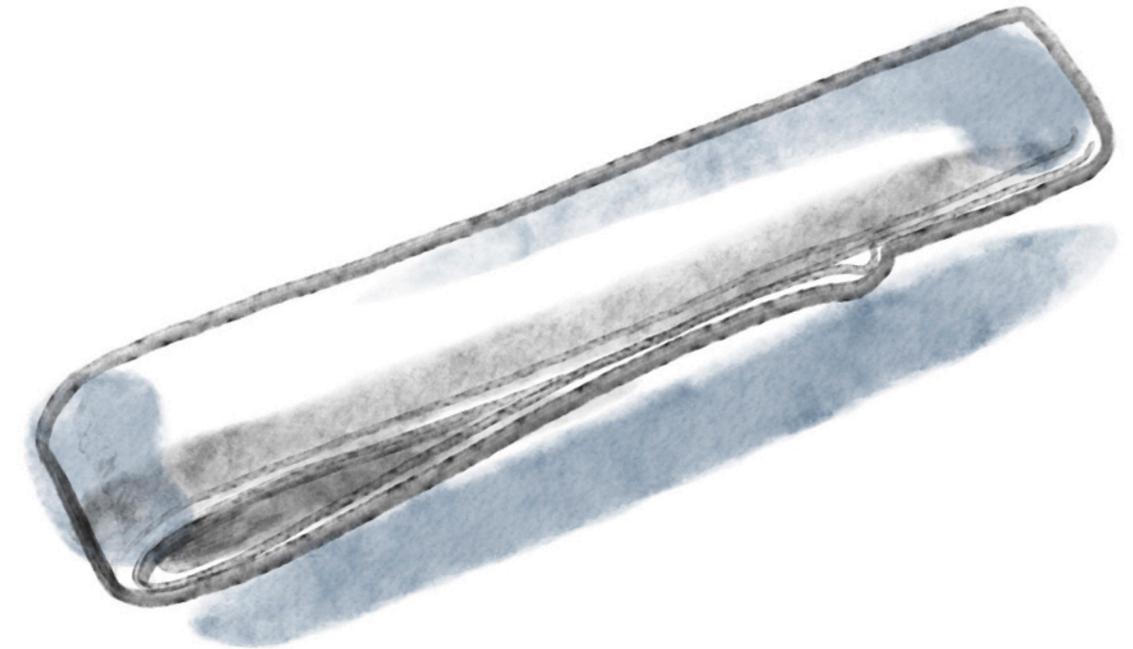


[GO BACK](#)

30

Wearing Tie Bars and Clips

Tie bars and clips are popular - we get it. Although not really a style pitfall, they do tend to damage ties. You've invested in quality garments - don't ruin them with additional adornments.



[GO BACK](#)

31

Wearing a Vest with a Tie Bar

Both a vest and a tie bar keep your tie close to your shirt. Choose one or the other. Wearing both is overkill.



[GO BACK](#)

32

Matching Shirt and Tie

A tie creates visual depth, and it's an opportunity to add fun contrast. Take advantage and assemble a look that's visually arresting.



GO BACK

33

Over-the-Top and Dated Bow Ties

Leave it for the circus clowns. Choose an elegant batwing bowtie that gives you a slim and understated finish.

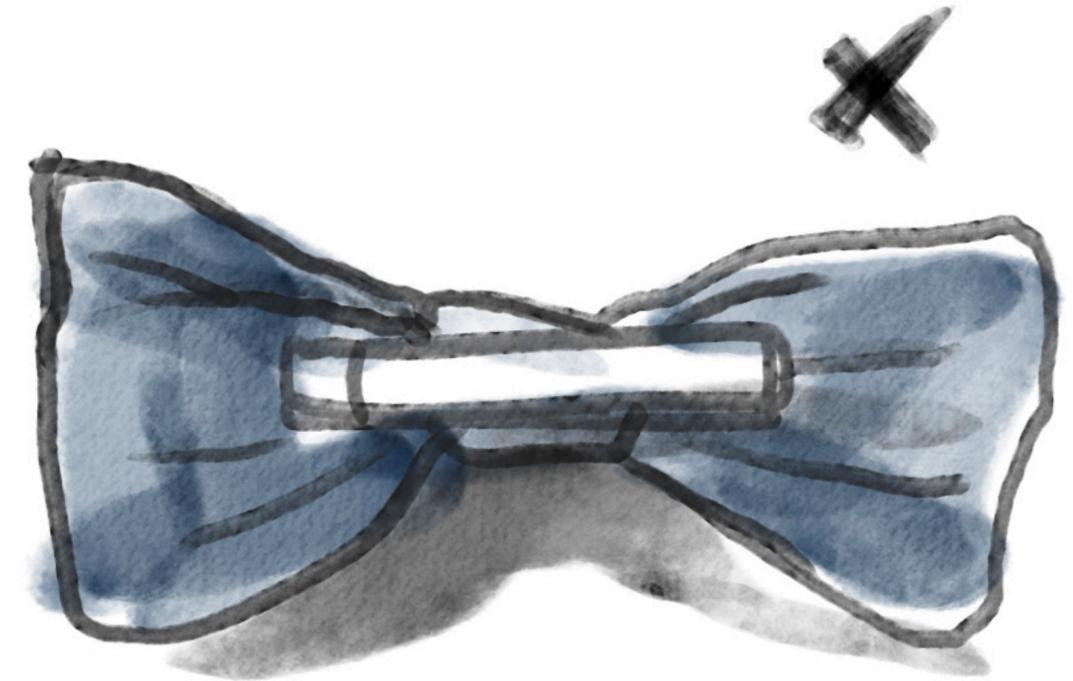


[GO BACK](#)

34

Pre-Tied Bow Ties

Ditch the pre-tied bow tie. Tie your bowtie and show the world your class, skill and eye for style. The same goes for neckties. Toss those clip-ons.

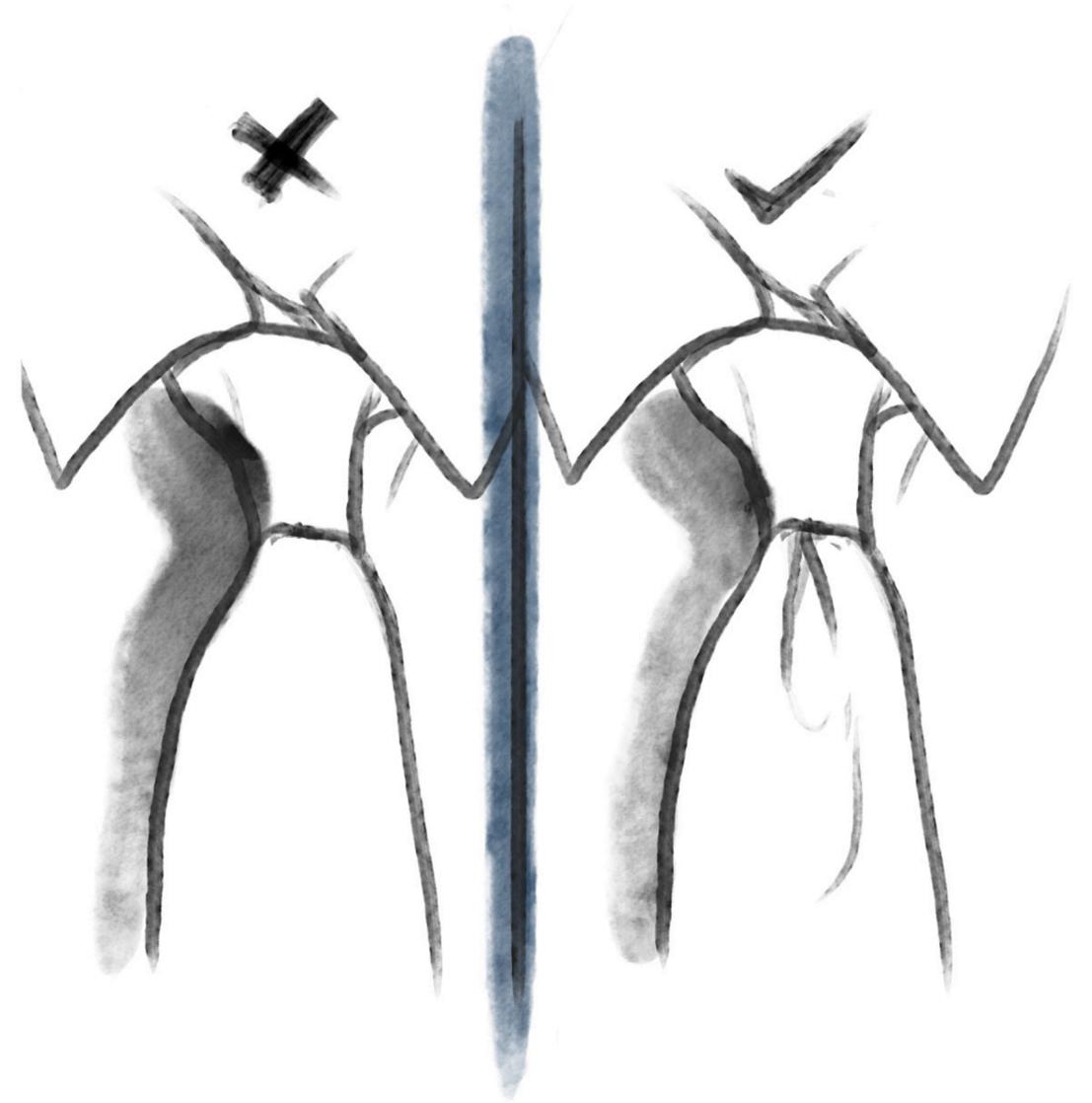


GO BACK

35

Ties that Don't Show the Dimple

The 'dimple' is the small fold beneath the knot of a tie. The small yet stylish detail creates visual interest and shows that polish is never too much work.

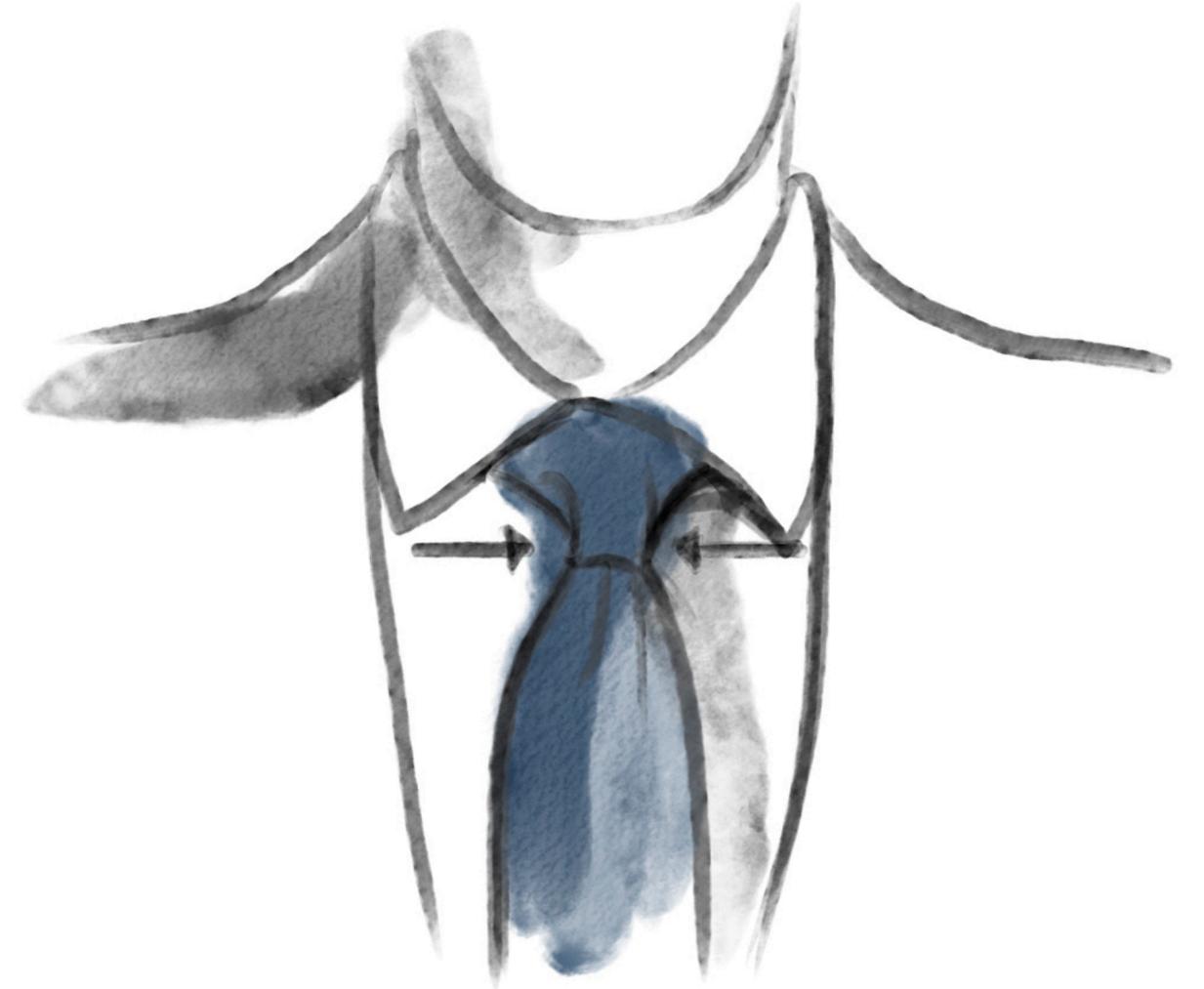


GO BACK

36

Loose Tie Knots

Loosely tied knots means your tie won't look like its intended shape. Set a tone of precision for your tie and overall aesthetic.

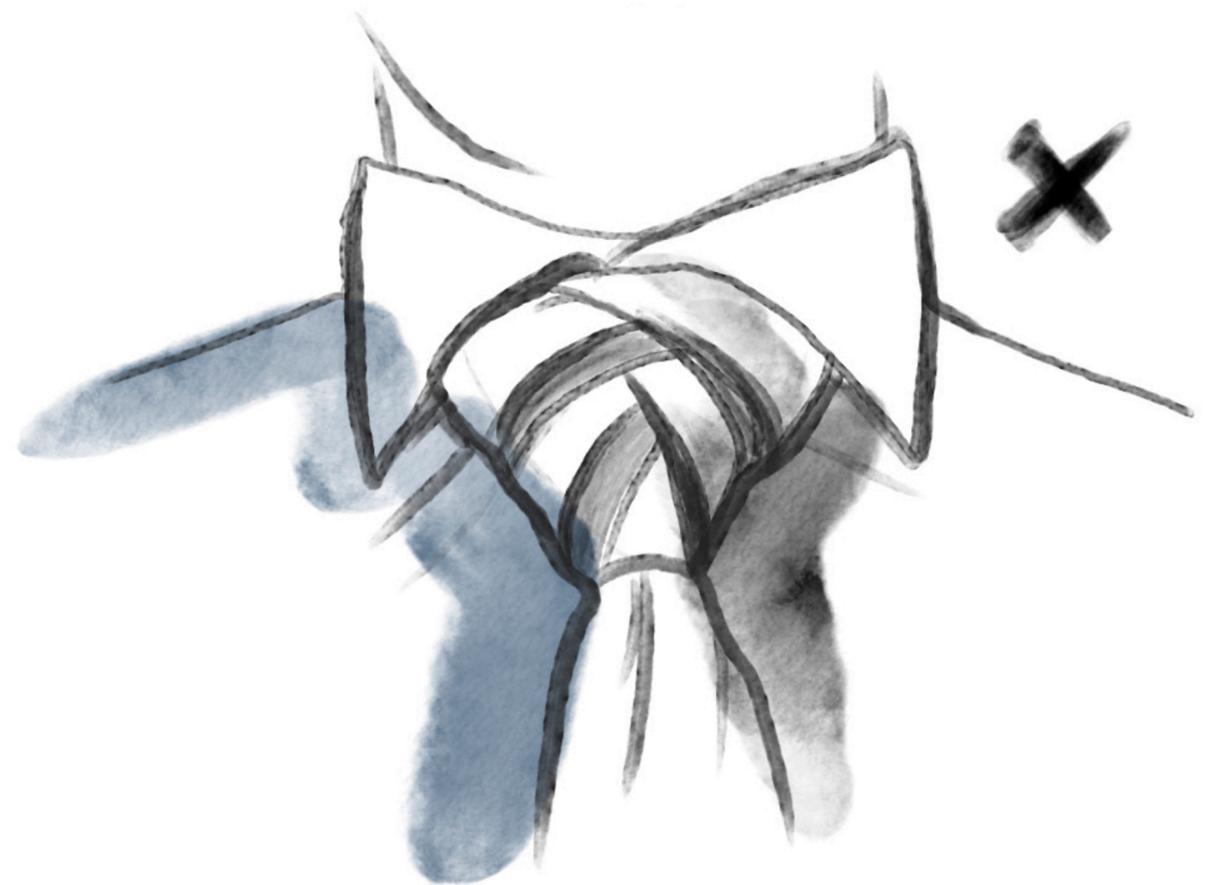


GO BACK

37

Unnecessarily Complicated Tie & Large Knots

Ties should complement not upstage you. Avoid flashy knots like the Eldredge and use a Four-in-Hand for a classic and straightforward knot. Avoid large knots like the Windsor knots.



GO BACK

38

Wearing Synthetic Material

Synthetics look cheap and feel uncomfortable against your skin. They also send the wrong message. Shiny ties, for example, are typically made from polyester. Don't wear shiny ties. They're poorly constructed and calls attention in all the wrong ways. Think about how chrome on a car takes attention from what's important: the car itself.

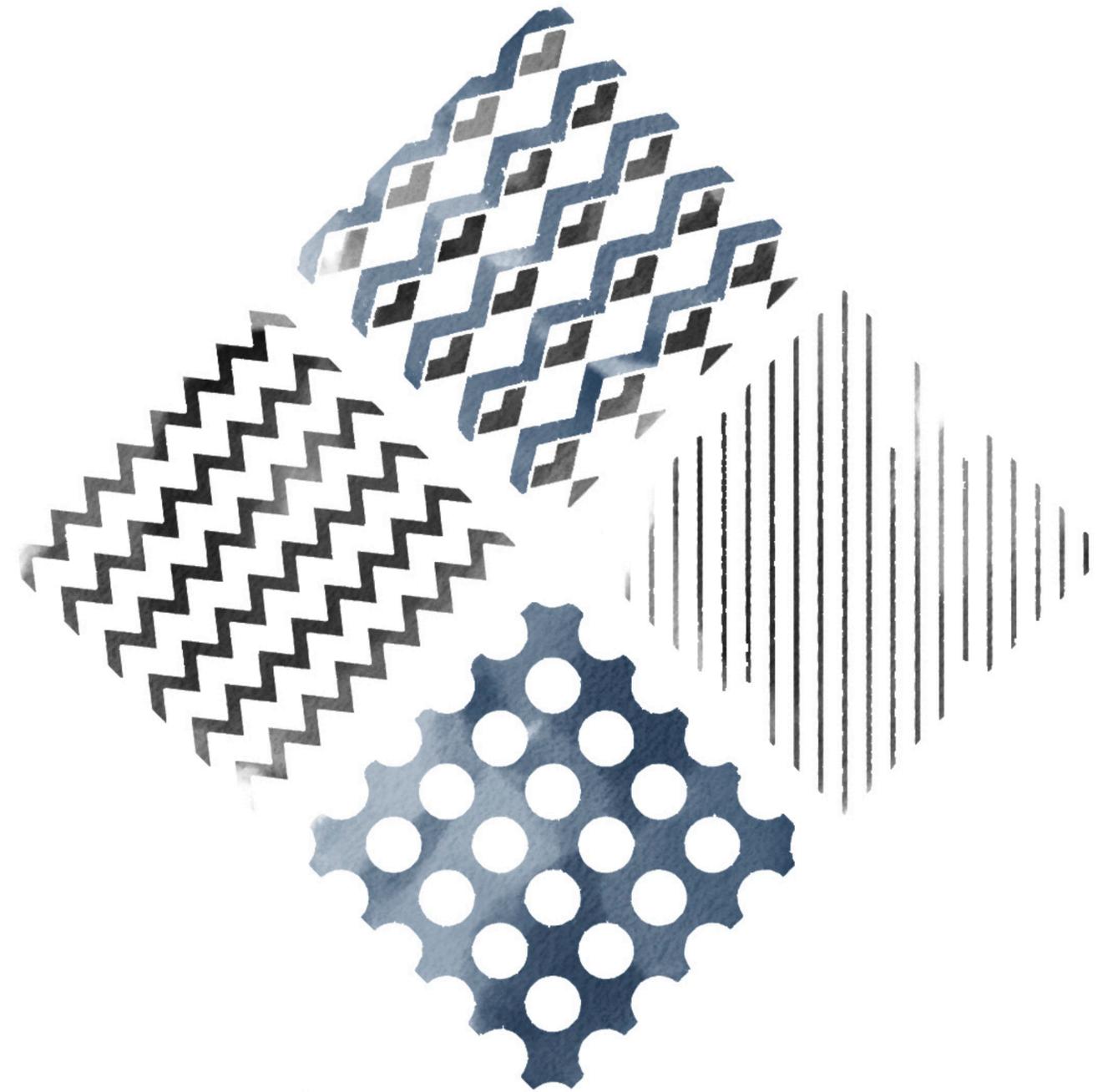


GO BACK

39

Too Many Patterns

One too many patterns will make you look garish, not stylish. Don't allow multiple statement pieces to make you look ridiculous.

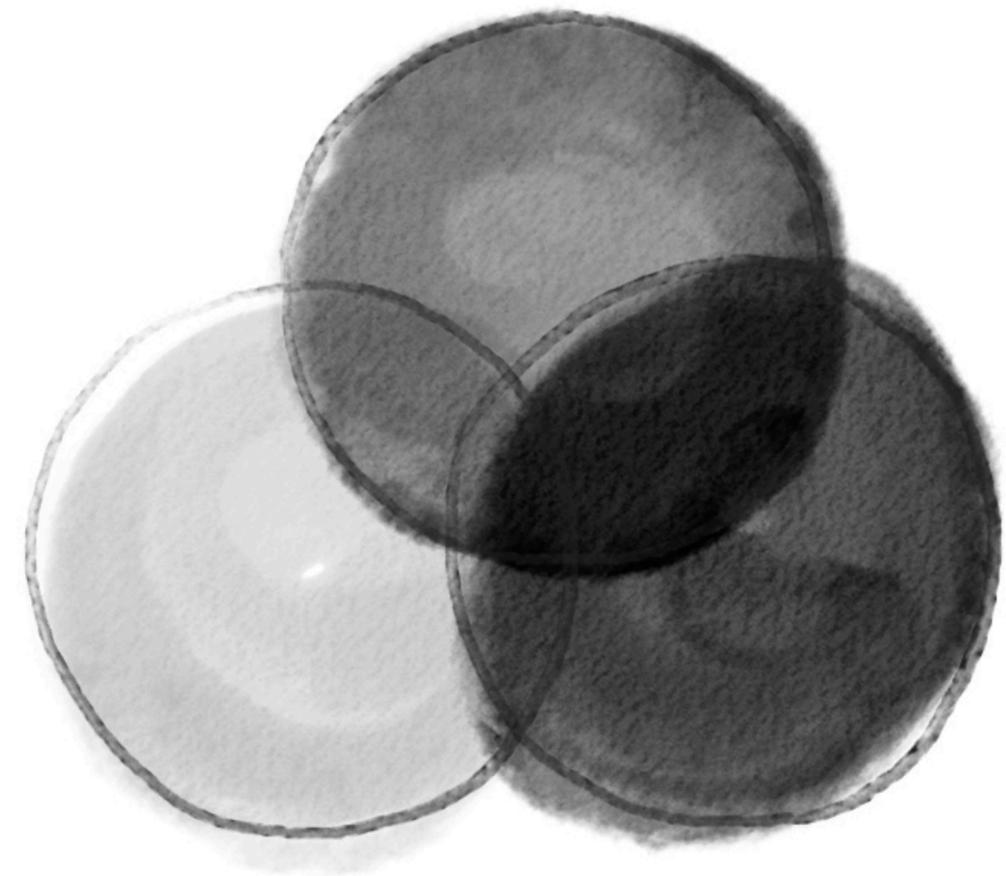


GO BACK

40

Too Much Matching

Matching works most of the time (see: belt and shoes). You don't want to do it all the time. A black shirt with a black blazer or blue shirt paired with navy pants doesn't create the depth and dimension you want in an outfit.



[GO BACK](#)

41

Believing Mall Brands Mean Quality

Wearing famous brand logos doesn't mean you wear quality garments. Focus on high-quality materials that fit you well, and less on the brand name.



GO BACK

42

Poor Grooming

A good sense of style extends beyond the clothes you wear. The most elegant suits and perfectly tied bowties can't hide poor grooming.



GO BACK

43

Wearing Too Much Cologne

A person's scent can summon memories - both pleasant and unpleasant. Too much cologne can repel, but a mild cologne applied sparingly is an invitation and a powerful element of a person's overall style.



[GO BACK](#)

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