

*Networking Know How:
What to wear and when to wear it.*

Quick Reference to Dress Codes for Social Events

Black Tie = Formal. Men wear tuxedos, women wear cocktail, long dresses or dressy evening separates.

White Tie = Ultra-Formal. Men wear full dress, with white tie, vest, shirt. Women wear long gowns.

Formal = Black Tie. But in trendier cities (New York, Los Angeles) it could mean a black shirt, no tie with a tux. Women wear cocktail, long dresses or dressy evening separates.

Ultra-Formal = White Tie. Men wear full dress, with white tie, vest, shirt. Women wear long gowns.

Black Tie Optional = You have the option of wearing a tuxedo. But, this is a clue to the formality of the event, meaning a dark suit and tie could be your other option. Women wear cocktail, long dresses or dressy evening separates.

Black Tie Invited = Same criteria as Black Tie Optional.

Creative Black Tie = Trendy interpretations of formal wear. Men can go with a more modern tux look; such as a black shirt, no tie. Women wear long or short dresses, or evening separates.

Semi-Formal = Usually means tuxedos are not required, nor are long dresses. An evening wedding (after 6pm) would mean men wear dark suits, women wear a cocktail dress. Daytime semi-formal events mean men wear a suit, women wear an appropriate short dress or dressy suit.

Cocktail Attire = Men wear dark suits, women wear short elegant dresses or evening separates.

Dressy Casual = Similar to business casual but a bit more dressy. No jeans or shorts.

Casual = Anything goes.

Informal = Casual unless associated with a wedding or other special event. Some form of decorum and good taste applies here. Men wear a nice pair of slacks and shirt. Women wear a dress.

*“Wheresoever
you go,
go with all
your heart!”
Confucius*



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