

Fashion TRENDS

Top Shoes To Make You—And Your Feet—Happy

(NAPSA)—American women spend nearly \$16 billion on shoes each year, according to the NPD Group. The American Apparel and Footwear Association figures that's an average of seven new pairs each. But no matter how many you buy, you'll be better able to put your best foot forward if you stroll through these ideas:

It's All About Color

Green makes a strong entrance with a variety of shades, while intense turquoise stands out as a hot new color this season. Look for bright candy pinks, citrus and sorbet hues, two-toned mixes such as peach and coral and crisp black and white combinations to give your feet a little extra attitude. Neutrals are old news—lively and dazzling colors are what women are stepping out in these days.

Shoes Accessorize, Too

Whimsical decorations on shoes are everywhere this season. Dramatic embellishments such as metallic bits on heels, decorative topstitching or rhinestones on flats add a unique touch to complement your style. Glistening jewels on sandals and earthy, ethnic accents featuring shells, coins and wooden beads can freshen up any look.

Wedges Wow Once More

Wedges may well be the "it" shoe of the season. "With the resurgence of the '70s bohemian look, these comfortable heels are updated in a very chic, retro-hip kind of way," says Melvin Murry, Mervyn's vice president of product design and development. Wedges—in bright bold colors, funky stripes, animal patterns or polka dot fabrics—paired with



Fashion shoe-ins these days include colorful, fanciful footwear.

anything from a circle skirt and sweater to trousers and a fitted jacket, can give a new meaning to happy feet.

Flat Is Fabulous

The popularity of feminine '50s styling is at the forefront of fashion, with flats taking a sharp, preppy and more delicate, feminine turn this season. Grab yourself a pair of ballet flats, stylish moccasins or classy pointy flats and all eyes will be on you. To capture a more open-air feel and show off your feet, a great pair of sequined flip flops can let your feet shine.

Explains Murry, "Women used to choose a pair of shoes to complete a look, as more of an afterthought. Today, style conscious women are going for maximum impact by selecting an eye-catching accessory piece first—like a great pair of shoes—then pulling together the rest of the outfit to show them off."