

Sort out, take stock and hit the shops

Don't panic, but there's only a few weeks of summer to go, so Gloucestershire stylist **KATE PARKER** is already thinking about transitional items to see you through to autumn. Here are her style tips

AS the summer season begins to draw to a close it's a good time to take a look through your wardrobe and think about some transitional items.

The stores are in full sale swing and some are even giving us the first glimpses of autumn-winter, known as the pre-collections, so it's a great time to take stock. These suede ankle boots from Reiss are a great transitional item taking you effortlessly from summer to autumn.

They'd look great worn with cigarette leg jeans and have been reduced from £159 to £79 at www.reissonline.com

Take a look through your spring-summer pieces and consider which current season purchases you have worn the most. Quite often it's not the thing you thought was the wisest buy.

Pull out those pieces you haven't really worn for a long time and don't really appeal to you any more. Place them all together at the end of the rail.

That way they are there ready for next March when you come to review spring-summer again, and when you might want to consider moving them on.

Give your wardrobe a quick tidy and reorganise things. Do the buttons up to stop things slipping off the hanger.

Treat your wardrobe as your own personal store where everything has been chosen especially for you.



Reiss suede ankle boots, reduced to £79 from £159

Consider whether there are any last minute items you may need from the sales, before they are no longer available.

Buy a copy of your favourite monthly fashion magazine either the August or September issues to see what trends are coming up and which appeal to you.

And consider the pre-collections, which are coming into the shops over the next few weeks.

You can discover some real gems and they are often recognised for being perfect for true British weather.

Some great pre-collection pieces include this London Gigi Dress, £149, from Hobbs and the chocolate leather biker jacket, £225 from Mint Velvet, Cavendish House, Cheltenham.

For more details, visit www.kateparkerstyle.com



Romance

Choose flirty broderie anglaise and peekaboo lace for a soft, romantic look in Indian cotton, linen, chiffon, lace or soft knits. Use a waist-cinching belt in a neutral or neon shade to highlight your curves.

Wishlist: Lace dress. It's the summer alternative to the LBD. This Boden white broderie trim dress, is reduced from £85 to £49 at www.boden.co.uk

Or try Topshop for this pretty white broderie anglaise Peter Pan collar blouse, £32.50



Accessories

Let your whites do all the talking... choose classic brown leather accessories for a stylish understated look. From left, NW3 Eddie Bag, £119, at Hobbs; tan leather pushlock satchel bag, £205, by DKNY at House of Fraser and leather skinny belt, £15, from Accessorize

White on trend...



Washing machines at the ready, white is the hottest colour of high summer. **WEEKEND** reveals how to wear the super-bright whites

Minimal

Crisp clinical elegance is in vogue, leaving fussy detailing redundant. A clean silhouette is the modern way to wear white, with different materials creating different effects.

Wishlist: Cotton shirt. The go-to item in your wardrobe that you can style up or down. Look stylishly casual in this Angelica broderie tie shirt, £46, with Harmony cotton shorts, £16, from Great Plains at www.greatplains.co.uk

HOW TO GET A STATEMENT LOOK

Being such a bold solo act, top-to-toe white doesn't need much in the way of accompaniment. A tan belt or pair of nude shoes are all the accessories you need.

White has varying shades. To see if the shade suits you, hold it up to your face. Buy if it makes you look healthy and ditch if it washes you out.

If you have warmer undertones in your skin, stick to softer whites, such as ivory or cream (which generally suit most people). Icy whites work against skins with cooler undertones.

If white feels too garish, build up your confidence with one key accessory, like a white bag or scarf.

Ensure your pieces look fresh white and not even remotely yellow or grey. Washed-out whites will instantly let down your look.

Beware of dry cleaning bills. Whites may need more attention in the wash, so ensure you read the care labels and avoid hand wash or dry clean unless you're committed to the aftercare.

Beware of tell-tale fake tan and foundation stains. Tide marks against stark white is never going to be on-trend.



Relaxed

Embrace white in your casual wardrobe with drapey pieces and loose tailoring. White attracts the eye, so think about how and where you wear it - if your hips are your problem area, then wear white jeans with a tunic. If you want to steer attention away from a bigger bust, avoid clingy, translucent or crisp white tops and go for deconstructed draping fabrics.

Wishlist: Slouchy palazzo trousers. Wear with flat sandals for beachy daytime chic or with wedges for a hippy Seventies vibe. These Marisota Arlene Phillips white wide leg trousers, are from £40 at www.marisota.co.uk