Men’s Essential Wardrobe

If you do not wear a suit and tie to work all the time, here are the elements of an essential men’s wardrobe:

- Solid gray or navy suit.
- Navy blue blazer.
- Good straight-cut blue jeans.
- Khaki pants.
- Mid-gray wool pants (preferably light weight).
- Trim khaki shorts.
- White and light blue oxford shirts (oxford is a heavier, textural cloth that is inherently more casual - in this case the collars would be button-down, as well.)
- White and light blue dress shirts (something in a finer fabric, without a button-down collar, suitable for wearing with a suit).
- Solid black grenadine necktie.
- Other neckties based on needs and taste - colored, textured solids, knits, simple diagonally striped ties.
- Plain white t-shirts.
- A couple of other plain t-shirts - navy or heather gray are good choices.
- A trim-fitting solid polo or two (white and blue are good colors).
- Gray crew-neck sweatshirt.
- Fine wool (cashmere) v-neck sweater (light gray or camel/oatmeal are good colors).
- Plain white sneakers.
- Black cap-toes.
- Brown dress shoes.
- Brown or burgundy casual shoes or boots
- Belts to match shoes.
- After this, you may need one or two casual jackets. A peacoat or duffel coat is good for cold weather. A Harrington or mechanic’s jacket is good for less cold weather.
- Again depending on local weather, you may need an overcoat suitable to wear with a suit, gloves, a scarf or a trench coat or mac for rain.

Focus on fit and quality. Quality is particularly important for the more durable goods on the list, like shoes. Add accents that speak to you. You’ll look good.

Source: Put This On
http://putthison.com/post/712103418/the-essential-mans-wardrobe-perhaps-the-most
Dressing to Maintain Success
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A Minimalist Wardrobe: Business casual environment

Some basic guidelines:

- Always, buy quality garments on important elements such as suits and shoes
- Quality also means you won’t look disheveled, because colour & cut won’t fade & fray
- But don’t bother with quality on a cotton t-shirt. $10 or $100, it’s the same thing.
- Choose classic cuts, prints & colours so that it will last through (hopefully) decades
- Don’t forget basic grooming: a good haircut will always work wonders

Assumed criteria:

- Business casual during the week
- Fun on the weekends (possibly with or without children)
- Also attend events such as weddings & dinners on occasion
- You do laundry weekly, because as a minimalist, you will not have many (clean) outfits to last for months without laundry
- Live in a place with 4 seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter

The list:

- 6 business casual shirts
- 3 work pants
- 3 t-shirts
- 2 polo shirts
- 3 sweaters
- 1 pair of jeans
- 1 winter jacket
- 1 sport coat
- 1 black/dark grey suit
- 2 ties
- 1 reversible belt (black/brown)
- Casual shoes
- Dress shoes
- Winter Boots [Possibly Optional]
- 9 pairs of socks (each pair counted as an “item”)
- 2 pairs of Shorts [Optional]
- Winter accessories: gloves, scarf, earmuffs/hat
- Sunglasses
- Watch
- Work Bag

Source: The Everyday Minimalist
http://www.everydayminimalist.com/?p=2174
25 Pieces of Basic Sartorial Knowledge

1. Unbutton the bottom button of your jacket. It’s not intended to be buttoned.
2. Same goes for your vest.
3. Remove the tags on the sleeves of your jacket before you wear it.
4. Jackets sometimes come with white basting thread on their shoulders or holding closed their vents. Remove this thread before wearing the jacket.
5. Jacket pockets are intended to be opened. Use a small scissor or seam ripper.
6. More than three jacket buttons is never appropriate for anything.
7. On a three-button coat, buttoning the top button is optional, and some lapels are rolled so as to make the top button ornamental. In other words: if buttoning the top button seems wrong, it is.
10. Your jacket sleeve should be short enough to show some shirt cuff - about half an inch.
11. Your pants should end at your shoes without puddling. A slight or half break means that there is one modest inflection point in the front crease. If your pants break both front and back or if they break on the sides, they’re too long.
12. Your coat should follow and flatter the lines of your upper body, not pool around them. You should be able to slip a hand in to get to your inside breast pocket, but if the jacket’s closed and you can pound your heart with your fist, it’s too big.
13. When you buy a suit or sportcoat, it should be altered to fit by a tailor. This will cost between $25 and $100.
14. Your tie should reach your belt line - it shouldn’t end above your belt or below it.
15. Your tie knot should have a dimple.
16. Only wear a tie if you’re also wearing a suit or sportcoat (or, very casually, a sweater). Shirt, tie and no jacket is the wedding uniform of a nine-year-old.
17. The only men who should wear black suits during the day are priests, undertakers, secret agents, funeral attendees and yokels.
18. Cell phone holsters are horrible.
19. So are square-toed shoes.
20. Never wear visible socks with shorts.
21. Or any socks with sandals.
22. If your shirt is tucked in, you should be wearing a belt (or suspenders, if you’re wearing a jacket as well, or your trousers should have side adjusters and no belt loops).
23. Flip flops are great for the pool and the beach and not great for anything else. (Some say this is a matter of taste. We agree. If you have any taste, you will only wear flip-flops at the beach or pool.)
24. Long ties are not appropriate with a tuxedo.
25. Never wear polyester outside of the gym or theme parties.
Places to look for guidance

Use the Intertubes to get tips on how to select, buy, and wear clothes:

**New York Times article on scientific study of how clothes affect perception:**

**Esquire’s Style page**
Lots of great how-to posts, “How to Tie a Tie” to “How to Remove Stains.” Ignore prices, since they often showcase really high-end clothes. Also ignore crazy trends and remember to you’re your eye on the basics. Focus on what to wear:
http://www.esquire.com/style/?click=esq_more

**GQ Style page**
Similar to Esquire’s page, with the same tips for looking at it:
http://www.gq.com/style

The Style Guy column offers Q&A about dressing and clothes:
http://www.gq.com/style/style-guy

Read their guide “Building Your Business Wardrobe,” which discusses what to have in your closet and how to make sure it fits:
http://www.gq.com/how-to/fashion/200705/how-to-perfect-business-wardrobe-slideshow?changercurrentdate=true&date=2007/05/21#slide=1

And this guide to selecting a suit based on your shape is pretty handy:
http://www.gq.com/how-to/fashion/200707/gq-primer-suit-your-shape-slideshow#slide=1

**The Life & Times of C. Benjamin**
A younger, hipper style blogger who answers a lot of questions from young men making the transition from college to professional life. From here, you can also find his other sites:
http://cbenjamin.tumblr.com/

**Valet Magazine**
How to talk to your tailor

**Effortless Gent**
http://www.effortlessgent.com/

**Style Girlfriend**
Guy’s style from a girl’s perspective:
http://stylegirlfriend.com/

**What alterations should cost**
http://putthison.com/post/11863953233/what-should-suit-alterations-cost