

How to Select a Good-Quality Tie

The tie is an essential part of any professional man's wardrobe as wearing a tie gives him instant respectability and helps to unite all the other elements of his business outfit.

Whether you need to wear a tie to work daily or occasionally for the important business meeting or job interview, it is important to wear a good-quality tie, as it projects credibility and professionalism.

Tips to Select a Good-Quality Tie

Here are some simple tips which you can follow to select a good-quality tie:

- a) 100% Silk
For work, go for 100% silk ties instead of polyester and silk blends or polyester ones. Ties that retail for as little as S\$5 are usually polyester ties. To check for the type of material used, look at the tag that is sewn beneath the back of the tie. The next step is to feel the material. Avoid buying a silk tie that feels rough to the touch because it is made of inferior silk.

An uneducated consumer may assume that a good tie must be thick as this suggests that the silk is heavy and therefore expensive. Sometimes the thickness is due to a heavier lining. The object of the lining is to provide the proper weight for the tie, so that it knots perfectly. In fact, sometimes, manufacturers try to pass the ties off as quality material by adding a thick lining. Be sure then, that the bulk of the tie you are feeling is the silk outer fabric and not the lining.

- b) Hangs straight in the air
A good tie is cut on the bias. In other words, it has been cut across the fabric which allows the tie to fall straight after tying the knot, and prevents it from twisting round when worn. A simple test which you can perform before buying a tie, is to hold the tie up by its smaller end and see whether it twists or hangs straight. If it begins to twirl in the air, it was probably not cut on the bias, and should not be purchased!
- c) Self-Tipping
A fine necktie has a silk tip on its reverse, which conceals the lining and keeps the tips of the lining in place. A more expensive necktie is self-tipping, meaning the tip is made of the same cloth as the front of the necktie.
- d) A Bar Tack & Keeper
A fine necktie has a bar tack, which is a stitch, joining the two sides of the back. It also has a "keeper" sewn into the seams of the back to hold the back of the tie. A higher priced necktie should have a keeper separate from the label.

Let Your Tie Be Your Personal Branding Statement

Other than the quality, there are many other considerations to bear in mind when wearing the tie e.g. the width, colour, design, texture and how to match the tie with different collars and designs of shirts. The tie is one of the few items in a man's outfit that expresses his individuality, taste and personality. So let your tie make the right statement about you!

If you like to find out more men's wardrobe and how to create your personal brand via the way you dress, approach a professional image consultant for a personal consultation.

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