



**Magpie Style**  
Accessible, everyday style that shines.

## My Shopping Checklist

I'm an impulse shopper. If it's on sale and it fits even the slightest, it's mine. I've vowed to take a look at my spending triggers and carefully analyze each purchase. My closet will be happier and so will I. Here are some questions I came up with to help me assess my purchases:

✓ **Do I really love it?** Just because it's a designer dress on sale at the outlet for \$40 doesn't mean it's a good buy. Take a good look at the item and determine if you really love it or are just in love with the price.

✓ **Does it look good on me?** Am I trying to jam a square peg in a round hole just because I love the dress? Am I coming up with a thousand ways it "could" look good on me?

✓ **Does it fit?** I really love it and it looks good on me but it's a size too big. Which leads me to...

✓ **Can it be easily altered?** So far, so good. I really love the dress, it is a style that looks good on my body shape but it's a little too large. Alterations can be costly. If you need a hem shortened or a skirt taken in a little, it's worth it. Reshaping a jacket probably isn't worth it. In addition, if the item is two or more sizes too big, most times it isn't worth it. The only exception may be a straight, simple skirt that has a back zipper so it can be taken in the sides.

✓ **Do I own anything like it?** I don't need another black turtleneck, so unless it's a designer jersey knit for \$5, I'll pass.

✓ **Does it fit my lifestyle?** That designer suit is fab, but you're a work-from-home mom. Sure, you have to dress up a few times a year for conferences and such, but what is your real cost per wear?

✓ **Is it worth the price?** If the item is full price, are you willing to stalk it until it goes on sale? Are you willing to risk losing it? If

it's already discounted, is it really a deal? Is it a classic style that can be worn for years or a trendy item that you'll be sick of after six months?

✓ **Can I wear it with multiple items in my closet?** This is a biggie. Can you wear it with things you already own or is it something that requires you to go out and buy a pair of shoes, another blouse, etc.? Sometimes it's worth it; sometimes it's not. However, I find that if I don't already have something in my closet to wear with it, it languishes there.

✓ **Can I afford it?** Do you have to charge it? If so, can you pay it off without accruing interest charges?

✓ **Can I find it cheaper somewhere else?** That designer striped shirt meets all your shopping criteria, but can you find a similar substitute at Target or Banana Republic?

We all have items in our closets that sit unworn. And even this checklist doesn't ensure you'll avoid those "what the heck was I thinking?" moments. But, it may help you think twice before buying yet another black dress just because it's cheap and looks good!

For more styling tips, outfit inspiration and accessible style that shines, go to <http://magpiestyle.net>.