

SUMMER IN THE CITY

Holiday clothes not appropriate

BY KNEEZ BUKHARI

We know it's hot, we know it's stuffy and, yes, your brain probably does feel as though it's atrophying with the effort of trying to concentrate in all the humidity, but that's no excuse. Unless you happen to be an underwear model, there is no reason to display your briefs at work. Or see-through shirts, or string vests, hot-pants, speedo's... you get the fleshy picture.

Now, you may feel slightly aggrieved if your company has mentioned this to you already. After all, if they can't put out for air-con, they should have to suffer the consequences, right? And it is you who has to sit for hours on end, uncomfortably tugging your sweat streaked shirt away from the small of

your back, or riding the sardine-can into work in a jacket and tie, right? But the thing is, the way you dress presents an attitude, to your office, and to customers you may be dealing with on a day to day basis. And while you're at work, you are representing your employer and are obliged to do so in a professional manner.

Wearing the wrong thing affects your image as well as the image of your company and could give a lasting wrong impression which you might not even be aware of. However, while you don't want to look like a beach bum, you do need to stay cool and comfortable in the office. So, how to get it right? To beat the city heat, bear these thoughts in mind

FOLLOW FORM: Levels of formality vary from industry to industry and company to company so, if in doubt, follow form. See what your colleagues are wearing or take a leaf out of your boss's book. If a shirt and slacks seem to be the popular trend, invest in lightweight materials that allow your skin to breathe. Be careful not to get too carried away and start dressing in exactly the same clothing as your MD, that's just odd.

LAYER UP: Due to the phenomenon of Sod's Law, take it as read that you will probably get stuck on a train, in a tunnel, in one-hundred degree heat for forty minutes while on your way to work.

When you eventually slide into the office, your brand new air-con unit will have taken it upon itself to increase to maximum power, quite irreversibly, and for no apparent reason. Good thing you were wearing layers so you could regulate your body heat!

DISPLAY GOODS: It is never, no matter which office you work in, appropriate to flash too much flesh. It will do nothing to advance your career and could actually damage it. You should know what's appropriate girls. And guys. Just in case you're not sure, take a jacket in with you should you need a little extra coverage at short notice. ■

INVEST in lightweight materials that allow your skin to breathe

