



## What to wear to a Professional Headshot portrait session.

Although business casual dominates the landscape, many clients still prefer to wear a suit and tie for their headshot session. That being said, there are many acceptable options for men's attire in headshots.

Here are a few guidelines for choosing what to wear.

### Wearing a Necktie In Your Headshot

Ask yourself, "What is your audience?" If you are looking for a job in management you should consider opting for a jacket in your photo.

Whether or not you wear a tie will depend on what the current trend is within your profession.

Some organizations will insist on neckties in the headshots... double check!

- Stay away from huge patterns in your tie and shirt.
- Solid shirts with a small patterned tie look very sharp.
- Make your statement with your colors rather than your patterns.
- A shirt in light blue, lavender or grey works very well with a darker tie.
- A red or dark blue tie works well with a blue or light grey shirt.
- Consider purple with the lavender shirt.
- A white shirt can work as well and almost any color tie looks good with it.
- Bring a couple of options with you to your session.
- A striped tie looks better with a solid shirt.
  
- **For your jacket...**Both medium grey and blue work very well.
- Black or navy can work, but the detail of the jacket will be very dark in the final photo.
- A small pinstripe or chalk stripe is fine.
- Try to coordinate the width of your tie with the width of the lapels. For example, if you are wearing a modern, narrow lapel jacket, go with a narrower tie. If your lapels are more traditional, then do not wear a skinny tie.
- The best knot for most ties is a windsor knot. Here is a link to learn how to tie one:  
    ▶ [How to Tie a Windsor Knot | Men's Fashion](#)
- I recommend getting a few shots without the tie for LinkedIn or Facebook.

## **Wearing a Jacket only In Your Headshot**

- Those choosing not to wear a necktie can still look very executive without a tie.
- You can be a little more daring with the pattern and colors.
- A dark blue solid shirt can look very sharp under a lighter grey jacket.
- Some bolder stripes or checks can work as well.
- Show a little creativity here. Especially if you are in a more creative field like art direction or marketing.
- Polo shirts under a jacket do NOT work well together... the collars don't lay well and it shows.
- You can wear a t-shirt under your blazer but stay away from white and stay away from a v-neck.
- Wear something with a medium tone of grey, blue or any jewel or primary colors.
- Do not wear a white t-shirt under an open-collared shirt. This results in a very distracting white triangle that draws the eye first when the viewer looks at your photo.

## **Men's Attire for Headshots - A Shirt With No Jacket**

- Wear a collared, button-up shirt, it draws less attention to the neck and helps frame your face.
- Dress shirts work better than polo shirts.
- Solid colored shirts work best when you aren't wearing a jacket.
- Black is not ideal and white is awful.
- Think about background color. If you are shooting on white, a darker shirt is better.
- If you are shooting on black or a very dark background opt for something lighter, but not white.
- Stripes or patterns when you aren't wearing a jacket tend to be distracting and work better under a jacket.

## **Other Tips For Men's Attire In Headshots**

- Clean, freshly-pressed shirts look sharp. Photoshop can only fix so much and it is expensive!
- Newer shirts that aren't faded and don't have frayed edges on the collars are a must.
- Try your clothes on before coming to the photo shoot and make sure they fit.
- Button the top button if you plan to wear a tie. If it chokes you it is too small. If you can fit two or three fingers between your collar and neck when it is buttoned, it is too big.
- In full length portraits, match the pants to the jacket, or wear a suit. Have a nice belt.
- If it's a full body photo, shine your shoes.
- Make sure eye glasses are clean and in good repair. Bring multiple pairs if you have them. Wear your glasses in your photo if you usually wear them in your business dealings.
- If you need a haircut, visit the barber or stylist at least three or four days before your headshot so your hair has a chance to settle in and look natural.
- Shave.... make sure if you have a late afternoon photo session that you shave. Particularly if you have dark whiskers.
- Men with beards should think about trimming up that beard so that it looks sharp.
- Bring two or three wardrobe options for the shoot.
- Plan your outfits before your session so you can buy new wardrobe items if you need to.