



# THE LEAN WARDROBE CHALLENGE

SAMPLE EXCERPT

## Chinos: The Denim Alternative

**Let's move onto chinos and shorts.** Depending on your work and play, your chinos may be playing double duty, so keep that in mind as you shop.

While khaki-colored chinos are a safe choice, I usually opt for a much lighter (closer to ivory) or much darker (closer to caramel) than normal version, simply because the common tan color reminds me too much of the frumpy, baggy, pleated variety I always encourage you to stay away from.

Charcoal and navy are also great choices.

Even though we're building a Lean Wardrobe, you may be inclined to include a little more color. I don't blame you. [Here's some guidance.](#)

If all that color is too advanced for you, just stick with my original suggestions; you can't go wrong with a **navy, charcoal, or dark/light khaki** pair of chinos both on and off the clock.

### What about shorts when it's hot out?

For shorts, I'd suggest the same colors as above, but feel free to experiment with brighter colors or interesting prints. If you're wearing shorts, then it's probably summertime, and *summertime is the best time to go bright*.

Keep the fit slim: no flared out legs, and nothing longer than mid-knee. Also, no cargo pockets, please.

Here's a little more about [choosing the right pair](#).

### *Other Considerations*

CAN'T STAND SHOPPING?  
END THE PAIN QUICKLY  
BY SHOPPING MORE  
EFFECTIVELY

As much as we talk about what to buy, where to buy it, and how to wear it, that all doesn't change one simple fact: most of us don't like shopping in the first place.

Read on so you can handle this inconvenience with dignity and grace.

*Your Objective*

*Find two pairs of chinos, and two pairs of shorts*

*A Few Recommendations*



DOCKERS ALPHA KHAKI, J.CREW BROKEN-IN CHINOS, OLD NAVY FLAT FRONT SHORTS

## Chino Check-in

You're officially halfway through the 90-day Lean Wardrobe Challenge! Congrats on sticking with it this far.

By now, you should've picked up a few pairs of chinos and shorts. Hope you're not too far behind! Better get on that, if so.

Below is a gentle reminder of your objective and some suggestions to help guide you. And make sure to not miss the article mentioned in today's "Other Considerations" section.

### *Your Objective*

*Find two pairs of chinos, and two pairs of shorts*

### *A Few Recommendations*



DOCKERS ALPHA KHAKE, J.CREW BROKEN-IN CHINOS, OLD NAVY FLAT FRONT SHORTS

### *Other Considerations*

**BACK TO BASICS: MAKE MINOR OUTFIT TWEAKS TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD**

Now that you're building a serious LW base, you may be concerned that everyone else will also have the same items, in the same colors.

There's nothing wrong with a classic wardrobe in standard colors, but perhaps you want to stand out just a bit. This article should help you out.

## The Formal Pant Option

So today's mission may be considered optional, depending on your line of work. Although, in general, I do think it's good to have a pair or two of these, just in case.

We're going to discuss trousers, or "dress pants".

Essentially, these are formal pants that share the same characteristics as your suiting pants, often in a wool or wool blend (though can be made from a variety of fabrics), with on-seam or slant pockets, slit pockets in the back, and may have pleats and / or cuffs.

My one suggestion here is a pair of **mid-gray trousers**.

[Put This On](#) does a great job of explaining why. Mid-gray is not too dark, not too light, and they go with absolutely everything. You will get plenty of use out of them.

If you work in a formal setting, you should probably stock up with two or three pairs, once you find the brand and fit that's made perfectly for your build.

Depending on the climate where you live, you may need a flannel (for colder conditions), a worsted wool (which could work in most situations), or a fresco (made for warmer conditions).

### *Other Considerations*

#### WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO FIND YOUR OWN PERSONAL STYLE

How you see yourself can be vastly different from how the world perceives you and your style.

I think now's the perfect time to synchronize those two.

*Your Objective*

*Pick up one to three pairs of mid-gray trousers*

*A Few Recommendations*



SUPER 120S FALL FLANNEL VIA HOWARD YOUNT, LUDLOW SLIM SUIT PANT IN ITALIAN WORSTED WOOL VIA J.CREW, FITZGERALD FIT PLAIN FRONT MOHAIR DRESS TROUSERS VIA BROOKS BROTHERS

## You'll Need At Least One

Have you shopped around for your gray trousers yet?

Trust me, these will come in handy, even if you don't dress up often. Paired with a dress shirt and a sport coat, you've got a classic look that you can wear anywhere that requires you to clean up a bit.

Long story short: If you work in a **casual setting**, grab at least one pair of mid-gray trousers. If you work in a **formal setting**, you'll most likely need a **few pairs**, but feel free to start with just one if you wanted to try out several brands and fits before stocking up.

See below for your examples, and don't miss the Other Considerations section!

### *Other Considerations*

#### USING HIGH/LOW STYLING TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Think you can only wear flannel trousers with a sport coat? Or that you can't wear a (nice, well-fitting) sweatshirt with leather dress shoes?

Read the article to familiarize yourself with the concept of high/low styling.

If you can wrap your brain around it, you'll look at your closet in a totally different way.

#### THE MOST CONCISE, USEFUL, AND INFORMATIVE GUIDE ON HOW TO DRESS "BUSINESS CASUAL", EVER

While we're on the subject of flannel trousers, wouldn't hurt to give you a mini lesson dressing business casual.

This has been a really popular post, so take notes, and enjoy!

### *Your Objective*

*Pick up one to three pairs of mid-gray trousers*

### *A Few Recommendations*



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Thanks for checking out *The Lean Wardrobe Challenge* eGuide.

This is just a small sample. For more details, visit:

[LEANWARDRO.BE](http://LEANWARDRO.BE)

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