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## **Fashion Corner: Summer Swimsuits**

By Elizabeth Saucier

Finding that perfect bathing suit is often just as difficult as finding a good pair of jeans. It's important to look for a bathing suit that's going to flatter your body type and make a fashionable statement. It can get pretty rough in the waters, so it's also important to look for a durable swimsuit that isn't flimsy. One of the most important things when it comes to choosing a bathing suit is feeling comfortable. Who wants to arrive at the beach only to feel too timid to undress? Key components to bathing suit shopping include: investing in quality, being careful with trends, and acquiring a cover-up.

When it comes to most bathing suits, a high price often equals good quality. One might ask, why splurge on something you'll only wear a handful of times a year? When it comes to bathing suits, however, quality is key. A bathing suit is a special item, and if you invest some extra money in a quality brand this will insure that it will last for seasons to come. On the other hand, I personally prefer to purchase a new bathing suit quite often, because trends (and body types) often change and it's important to keep your look fresh. If this is the case for you, definitely try looking for lower-priced bathing suits with long-lasting quality, just in case you decide you do want to keep it around for the coming seasons.

Swimsuits are beginning to dot the fashion ads, and some of the main trends include fun prints, 50's inspired (including one-piece suits), and bright colors (Ashlee Simpson was recently spotted poolside wearing a bright yellow bikini). However, be careful because these trends may not work for your taste or body type, so feel free to try bathing suits that go beyond these trends. I would recommend first trying on solid-colored suits and working your way out. Also, cut-outs may look exciting, but beware of the tan lines. Even striped suits can cause irregular tan lines, considering some darker stripes might block out more sun than the others.

A chic cover-up is a definite do when it comes to beachwear. A cover-up is an elegant way to transfer your beach bikini attire into an outfit fit for indoors. Breezy caftans (long, loose tunics) work great, and you can get by without pairing them with pants. With your favorite sarong and a piece of funky jewelry, you're all set to go shopping or eat at a restaurant. The sarongs at H&M are very affordable, have beautiful bold prints, and work as great sleeveless dresses. Victoria's Secret also offers great trendy bathing suits online as well as flowy cover-up dresses.

Overall, a good bathing suit has a good cut and color, and accentuates your body type. You can also pair your bikini with a funky skirt for a quick casual look. A bright bikini helps you make a splash on the beach, and the thinness of a sarong's fabric often helps accentuate a woman's figure. H&M, J.Crew, and Victoria's Secret are great places to start searching for that perfect swimsuit, especially since summer is just around the corner!