

Bargain Shopping for a Professional Wardrobe

Stop #1: **Bluebird Circle Resale Shop**

615 W. Alabama (& Montrose), 713-528-0470

Bluebird is one of the best consignment stores in Houston and offers many designer and name-brand clothing labels for men, women and children, as well as shoes, purses, accessories and jewelry. Proceeds benefit a local children's hospital, so philanthropic folks donate clothes and furniture to sell for this cause. The prices can't be beat, and you'll go into the dressing room with lots of things to try on. This is the kind of store where you'll really lose track of time. Note: they are open odd hours, because the staff is completely volunteer, so call first.

Stop #2: **Target**

Various locations. Closest: 8500 South Main, 713-795-4735, 2580 Shearn, 713-331-0376, and 4323 San Felipe, 713-960-9608

Yes, you can get good deals at Target. Target's selection of clothes suitable for the office is getting better and better. Most of the pieces you'll find are mix and match; you can put together a great closet of separates here. Target also has a good selection of costume jewelry, from watches to earrings.

Stop #3: **Marshall's**

Various locations. Closest: 5500 Meyerland Plaza, 713-661-2838

Marshall's is great! Marshall's and TJ Maxx are owned by the same company, TMX, Inc. They do carry different clothes, however, so it makes sense to check out both stores. You can find good suits in Marshall's, as well as great buys on separates. Check back often to see what new stock they have.

Stop #4: **Kohl's**

Various locations. Closest: 4730 West Bellfort, 713-729-9118

Kohl's has a variety of brands and prices, and they run sales all the time. Look for suits at great prices for men and women, as well as business casual separates. You can also find shoes and great accessories.

Other stores to check out:

Macy's by Appointment

Offered at the Houston Downtown location, 1110 Main Street, 713-968-1861

Your style. Your budget. Your needs. Easy, fun and absolutely free, Macy's By Appointment focuses exclusively on you! Whether you're getting ready for an interview, refreshing your wardrobe or searching for the perfect gift, our expert Personal Shoppers can help save you time & money, making your life simpler! Call to make an appointment.

Payless Shoe Source

Various locations, check Yellow Pages for listings.

Closest: 8132 Kirby Drive (in the Fiesta shopping Plaza), 713-661-9624

Need taupe shoes? Tie-up black work shoes? Visit Payless for a quick pair of shoes to add to your wardrobe. They're not too expensive, so you can buy a pair for just one outfit, if need be, and if they get wrecked from wearing them all the time, you won't feel so bad as if you spent \$70 on a pair of shoes. Also check the shoe department in WalMart, Target, Kohl's and DSW Shoe Warehouse.

DSW Shoe Warehouse

8403 Westheimer, 713-977-8691

There are literally thousands of different shoes in here, of all kinds, brands, and price ranges. Definitely worth your time to shop here.

Baubles and Beads Resale Boutiques

Various locations, check online for listings.