

## Best Necklace Wearing Tips

Long or short, people always ask. What's the perfect length? Finding the right necklace length depends on several factors. Body type, neck length, face and neck shape are key in selecting the right necklace. Neckline of clothing is also an important consideration. Read the following guidelines to find the best necklace length for you.

### Wearing Short Necklaces

The length and style of short necklaces are determined by size of neck, body type and shape of face. Necklines of clothing will also determine the best necklace to choose.

For example if you're wearing a crew neck shirt and wear a short necklace, there can be conflicting lines depending on where the neckline and necklace fall. Make sure that the necklace falls above the line of the crewneck. If you're wearing a short, slinky necklace, it should fall just below the hollow of your neck and above the crewneck so that it is visible. Your necklace should be visible and not partially covered.



The biggest mistake people make when wearing a short necklace is that they wear it too far from their face. Take a look at these two pictures. It's the same necklace worn at two different lengths. Which looks better and why?



In this photo, the necklace is too long and draws attention away from the face. Jewelry is made to enhance the face. So when wearing a short necklace it should fall just below the hollow of your neck.



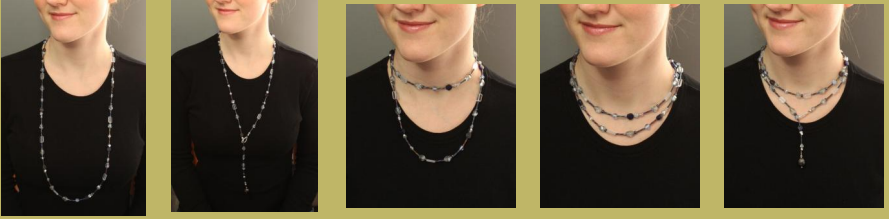
In this photo, the necklace falls at the proper place, just below the hollow of the neck. It complements the top and skin tone of the wearer and accentuates the face rather than draws attention away from it.

## **Wearing Long Necklaces**

Long necklaces are 36"+ in length. With the average neck being 12-13" in circumference, a necklace that is at least 36"+ in length allows a variety of options especially if it has a clasp.

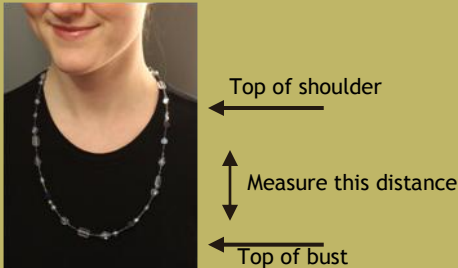
Long necklaces typically look best when they're draped concentrically with the shortest strand bringing attention to the face. Watch out for necklaces that slip into the cleavage. For fuller figured women, keep the attention towards the face and have the necklace fall just above the bust.

If you're wearing a long necklace, there are many variations for use depending on the total length of the necklace: as one long strand, as a lariat, doubled with a long strand and a short strand, doubled, and as a doubled short lariat. A rule of thumb for multiple wraps is to allow approximately 18" for each wrap.



## How to determine optimal necklace length

If you use the rule of thumb that short necklaces will fall beneath the hollow of the neck, you will generally be able to find short necklace lengths easily. Pick a short necklace that works well for you and take a measurement of the length of that necklace. Note that if a necklace is chunky or delicate, this will impact where the necklace falls. Use your judgment when selecting the best necklace to take this measurement.



For necklaces that fall above the bust, take a measurement between the top of the shoulders and the top of the bust. Triple this number and that will give you the optimal length for necklaces that will fall just above your bust line.

## What is the best type of necklace for me?

If you have a short neck or round face, bring the attention to the center of the face. The necklace should not be evenly weighted all around, rather, it should be graduated - with the beads or chain decreasing in size as it goes behind the neck. This will create an effect of elongating the face. For women with long necks, it's great to shorten the necklace or wear multiple-strands choker style -- think Audrey Hepburn.

People think they can't wear big chunky necklaces if they're petite. Most commonly the problem is that the necklace is too long. If you're petite, it may mean scaling down large beads and looking for necklaces that give a chunky effect.

Ultimately, take your personal style into consideration. Do you like low-cut tops? Full coverage tops? Where are you going to wear your necklace? Do you want something for everyday, around the office or for going out? Knowing your fashion goals will help you find the best piece.

### **What if I find the perfect necklace and it's not the right length?**

If you fall in love with a piece, you can make it work for you. If you find a necklace that's not the right length and does not have an adjustable chain, see if you can shorten it yourself. Looking for a quick fix and have long hair? Take out a safety pin to shorten or lengthen a necklace.

If you're purchasing jewelry directly from the artist (it's great to support your local artist community), many jewelers are happy to make modifications so that their pieces suit your needs.

If you purchase your jewelry from a boutique, ask them what their altering capabilities are. You may be able to have it altered immediately or they may have one in a different length.

When all else fails, take your prized necklace to a local jeweler and have them fix it to your liking!

### **Necklaces enhance your beauty when worn properly!**

Many women are driven by trends and not by what looks good on them. Trust your instincts and be creative when wearing necklaces. With a combination of the right necklace length and well-coordinated clothing you will be on your way to necklace wearing excellence.

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