

## In Fashion: Leather outerwear trends for the holidays

by Sharon\_Mosley

What better way to spiff up your fashion act for the cold months ahead than to slip into a shining new leather trench coat? Or a hip biker jacket? Or a shearling vest with a fur collar?

SHINE ON - Leather should be polished to a high-gloss shine this fall and winter, such as in this black patent leather trench from Blugirl. CNS Photo courtesy of Leather Apparel Association. Of course, there are a few leather dresses out there for the more adventurous trendsetter. And you'll always see some show-off sporting skin-tight rocker jeans or short leather skirts.

But for most of the rest of us, leather outerwear is the best way to up the style quotient and keep the chills away. It's also a great way for Santa baby to show his jolly fashionable side this holiday season.

Before you wrap up another shirt and tie or a flannel nightgown, consider putting something a little more glamorous under the tree.

Here are the latest fashion trends from the Leather Apparel Association, a nonprofit group who represents America's leather retailers and manufacturers:

- Shimmer and Shine:

Whether you're into a trench that gleams with gold dust or an antiqued pewter blazer that smolders, shine is the way to polish up your wardrobe this season. And the glowing metallic look is just one way to sparkle. If you really want to get into a little more glaring glamour, then opt for a glossy patent leather coat. Truly slick.

- Rev it up:

It's been around for decades, ever since the Schott Bros. created the Perfecto jacket in 1927; however, the motorcycle jacket just keeps blasting down the fashion runways in newer colors and styles every year - perfect for the daredevils out there who want to race ahead of the fashion pack. This season, go for the buckles and zippers in a cropped jacket with fur trim.

- Sleek and sculpted:

If you're not a motorcycle mama or a do-rag daddy, you can still get the luxe leather look with new silhouettes that are body conscious, streamlined and tailored enough to look professional to wear to work. One of the best modern leather shapes - the form-fitting scuba styles with stand-up funnel collars.

- The Wow factor:

For a truly impressive leather coat, think texture. Embossed crocodile is one of the most popular ways designers impress their customers this fall. Whether it's a bomber in chocolate brown like the one Hermes did for fall, or the purple men's aviator jacket by Sean Combs in his latest collection, textured leather is one of the hottest outerwear trends this year.

Sharon Mosley is a former fashion editor of the Arkansas Gazette in Little Rock and executive director of the Fashion Editors and Reporters Association.

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