

SPRING TREND REPORT

Lace is de-lovely

When's the last time you wore lace? Before you answer, underwear doesn't count. Nor does your wedding day, First Communion or baptism. If the runways are right, and they usually are, you'll be reaching for the barely-there fabric come spring.

The trend towards lace is two-fold. (Don't say you weren't warned: the high-neck Victorian blouse of fall was blatant foreshadowing.) It's part of fashion's en masse return to innocence. Flowing frocks and locks and romanticism have steadily crept back in to style. And it's a natural progression from the hand-made esthetic of knit and crochet we wore all winter.

Always feminine, lace is great because it can be as ingénue as eyelet or as vixenish as fishnet. And while white usually comes to mind, ivory, blush, chocolate and black work just as well. But red is best left to the boudoir.

To avoid looking too lollipop girl, pair lace with harder-edged fabrics like denim. The Block's owner Jennifer Mackay loves these flirty tops by Free People worn with jeans and high heels.

And remember head-to-toe lace may be lovely on the catwalk or walking down the aisle, but in real life less is more. Unless of course, a giant doily was the look you were going for.

—Carly Krug, 24 hours



- Rafal Gerszak, 24 hours
Above, Eyelet appliqué by Wendy Hill, \$199 at One of a Few. Right, Mauve with satin trim by Propaganda, on sale for \$32.50 at Plenty.

- Rafal Gerszak, 24 hours
Top right, Black lace by Free People, \$110 at The Block. Right, Short sleeved and sweet by Free People, \$110 at The Block.



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