

# RECESSION PROOFING your wardrobe

Let's face it: In today's economy, no one has money; least of all college students. Being broke just comes with the territory. But in times when even your daddy's credit card is being declined, what's a girl to do? The answer: shop online. The world wide web has become my new best friend this past year, as I have discovered what I had previously deemed only a fantasy world; a world full of coupons, sales, cash back, and budget shopping blogs that actually feature clothes I would wear in public. For those of you that have typed "Victoria Secret coupon" into Google one too many times, only to wind up with a bunch of expired, invalid, twenty-letter-un-copy-pastable codes, this guide is for you. Here are some of my top picks:

## Budget Fashion Blogs

**TheBudgetFashionista.com:** Truth be told, there's nothing overly glamorous about budget-friendly shopping. While I'm the first to admit when I scored a great deal at Target, I can't say I don't secretly wish I could afford to peruse the racks of Neiman's on a more regular basis. That was until I stumbled upon this site. The Budget Fashionista is in a league all its own. From coupon codes to outfit inspirations, shopping guides to sale alerts, this site has it all.

## Sale Alerts

**ShopItToMe.com:** If you're like me, you will be shocked to find out that you don't actually have to check every online store on a daily basis to see if they're having a sale. There's actually a site out there that will do all of that for you. On Shop It To Me, you simply input your favorite apparel brands and sizes and the site sends you an e-mail summary of which new items are on sale. Finding a good deal has never been so easy!

## Coupons

**Retailmenot.com:** Most online retailers have a box where you can input coupon or promotion codes and receive a (sometimes rather hefty) discount. Retail Me Not is by far the easiest to navigate, and they even give you a success rate, so you know which coupons are faulty and which ones will save you the big bucks.

## Cash Back Site

**Ebates.com:** Want to be rewarded for all of your valuable time spent shopping? Enter Ebates. The site gives you up to 26% cash back—although most retailers offer around 5%—every time you shop online. Every three months you'll get a "big fat check", thanking you for all of your hard work. They even have daily doubles, where— you guessed it— you get twice the cash back you normally would. Over 1,000 stores are linked with Ebates, giving you one more reason to spend all of your time shopping online—as if we needed another.

## Runner ups

**LuckyMagRewards.com** (must be a Lucky Magazine subscriber), **TheBudgetBabe.com**, **Omira.com**, **Freeshipping.org**, **SheFinds.com**, and **Promotionalcodes.com**.