

# InStyle

## These Are the 8 Basic Pieces You Need In Your Closet, According to Experts

We've got your basic basics covered.

By Amber Hawthorne | Published on March 9, 2024 @ 03:00PM

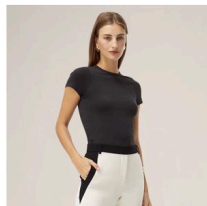


While women's basics like tees, trousers, and jeans might not be the most exciting pieces in your closet, these [unassuming essentials](#) are the backbone of every OOTD. Whether you're a sartorial maximalist or prefer a streamlined [capsule wardrobe](#), these eight pieces provide the fashion foundation for looks you'll wear all year long. Before we dive in, it's worth establishing exactly what elevated a piece of clothing or accessory from simply basic to a basic essential. [Stylist Audree Kate Lopez](#) defines an essential basic as a piece "that goes with at least half, if not 75%, of your wardrobe for a particular season."

### Layering-Friendly T-Shirts



Whether it's a short-sleeve crewneck or a long-sleeve V-neck, Holly Shapiro, Creative Director of [Splendid](#), considers t-shirts a must-have. "Fitted and [relaxed] tees are both essential, as is a layering tank top. Everyone should have a good go-to piece for these three styles." For this basic essential, Shapiro recommends looking for cotton or a cotton blend. "All the basics I love have a small percentage of stretch — about 2%-5%. They're not super stretchy, they just wear better." T-shirts are an essential basic [you can buy in bulk](#) without skimping on quality cotton, although Shapiro, a frequent tee-wearer, opts to invest. "I splurge on my tees since I want them to last and I wear them all the time. I'm less likely to invest in tank tops because I usually wear them as a base layer."



Toccin Baby Tee, \$125

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