



1. Proverbs 31:21

She does not fear for her household from snow, for her entire household wears red wool.

2. Is It Forbidden to Wear Colors Other than Black, White, and Navy Blue?

<http://crazyjewishconvert.blogspot.com/2012/02/is-it-forbidden-to-wear-colors-other.html>

Today's question comes straight from a Google search term that led to my site. Someone wanted to know if orthodox Jews are required to only wear black, navy blue, and white (and presumably cream, based on personal observations). This is not true. You can wear other colors and not be in violation of tznius. Of course, some groups are against bright red, but other colors are free game. Those groups likely do follow the idea that tznius means avoiding standing out, so day-glo colors and neon colors would be frowned upon, as would any other way of dressing that "stands out."

3. Rabbi Eliezer Melamed (21<sup>st</sup> century Israel), Pninei Halakha <https://ph.yhb.org.il/11-07-09/>

In sum, according to many authorities one may not wear red clothing today as well. The prohibition is where the entire garment, or the clear majority, is red. But a garment which is only partially coloured red is permitted according to all authorities. Also, all authorities permit wearing a garment that is not actually coloured red, but something like pink or bordeaux. And some authorities are lenient in our day regarding wearing even an entirely red garment, and those who wish to be lenient have a basis, but it is fitting to follow the strict view ideally.

Red

4. The red string <https://www.yutorah.org/lectures/lecture.cfm/859997/>

5. Zohar Chadash, Parshat Yitro

From the side of chesed [generosity] is white. And red from the side of gevurah [strength]. And green from the side of tiferet [splendour]. And black from the side of malchut [royalty]...

6. Rabbi Moshe Isserless (16<sup>th</sup> century Poland), Shulchan Aruch Yoreh Deah 178:1

And all of this is only prohibited with something the idolaters do for promiscuous purposes, like wearing red clothes, which are the garb of nobles and the like in promiscuous clothing...

7. Rabbi Shabbtai haKohen (17<sup>th</sup> century Poland), Shach to Yoreh Deah 178:3

It is not the way of *tzanua* people to have red in their garb. Black is the way of *tzniut* and humility, as we say, "One whose *yetzer* is overpowering him, etc."

8. *Red and romantic behavior in men viewing women*, European Journal of Social Psychology 40

In many non-human primate species, a display of red by a female increases attraction behavior in male conspecifics. In two experiments, we investigate an analogous effect in humans, specifically, whether red on a woman's shirt increases attraction behavior in men. In Experiment 1, men who viewed an ostensible conversation partner in a red versus a green shirt chose to ask her more intimate questions. In Experiment 2, men who viewed an ostensible interaction partner in a red versus a blue shirt chose to sit closer to her. These effects were observed across participants' perceptions of their own attractiveness (Experiment 1) and general activation and mood (Experiment 2). Our findings suggest that red acts as a basic, non-lexical prime, influencing reproduction-relevant behavior in like manner across species.

9. University of Rochester, *Psychological study reveals that red enhances men's attraction to women*

Although this aphrodisiacal effect of red may be a product of societal conditioning alone, the authors argue that men's response to red more likely stems from deeper biological roots. Research has shown that nonhuman male primates are particularly attracted to females displaying red. Female baboons and chimpanzees, for example, redden conspicuously when nearing ovulation, sending a clear sexual signal designed to attract males.

10. Alina Bradford, *Ostrich Facts: The World's Largest Bird* <https://www.livescience.com/27433-ostriches.html>

To get a female's attention, males bow and flap their wings outward to display their plumage. When they are ready to mate, the male's beak and shins will turn bright red. Sometimes, his neck will change to a red color to match.

11. Genesis 25:25, 25:30

And the first one emerged, ruddy, entirely covered in hair... And Esau said to Jacob: Feed me from this red, red stuff!

12. Samuel I 16:12

And he sent and they brought him, and he was ruddy, with pretty eyes and a fine appearance. And Gd said: Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.

13. Midrash, Bereishit Rabbah 63:8

"Ruddy" – Rabbi Abba bar Kahana said: Like a shedder of blood. When Samuel saw that David was ruddy, he became afraid, saying, "This one will shed blood like Esau!"

14. Talmud, Berachot 20a

Rav Ada bar Ahavah saw a Roman matron wearing a red robe in public...

15. Talmud, Avodah Zarah 20a-b

A man may not gaze at a woman's coloured clothing [even if she is not wearing them].

16. Jerusalem Talmud, Nedarim 1:1

Once, a man from the south came to me. I saw that he was ruddy, with pretty eyes, a fine appearance, and his hair arranged in layers upon layers. I asked him, "What did you see that caused you to decide to destroy this pretty hair?" He told me, "Master, I was a shepherd in my town, and I went to draw water and I saw my reflection in the water, and my nature gripped me and sought to draw me out of this world..."

What is *Tzniut*?

17. Midrash, Sifra, Acharei Mot 9:13:2

How do we know that one may neither touch nor reveal [the skin of] those with whom relations are forbidden? The Torah says, "You shall not draw near, to reveal."

18. Rabbanit Chana Henkin, Symposium on Women and Jewish Education

<https://traditiononline.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Symposium-On-Women.pdf>

There is a tendency to wrongly limit the arena of tzeniut to women and to dress. Tzeniut is rather our entire demeanor before Gd. "Hatznea Lekhet l'm Elokekha"- only one who walks with his Gd, "Lekhet im Elokekha," who possesses a sense of meaning and mission larger than himself, can walk modestly in all areas of life.

19. Rabbi Eliezer Melamed (21<sup>st</sup> century Israel), Pninei Halakha <https://ph.yhb.org.il/11-07-09/>

Here is the place to clarify that the fundamental principle of the laws of *Tzniut* is not to attract exaggerated attention. This principle applies for all people, men and women alike.

20. Michah 6:8

What does Gd require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk privately with your Gd?

21. Yonatan Shai Freedman, Stories about Rabbi Yehuda Amital

<http://www.haretzion.org/component/content/article/14-home/home/114-hesped-yonatan-freedman>

Rav Amital's wife's grandfather was Rav Isser Zalman Meltzer. Once he mentioned that when he wore his tallit to shul on Shabbat, he wore it under his coat. Looking for some significance, I asked why. He looked at me as though he were giving an obvious answer and said, "tzniut."

22. Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5

A person mints many coins with one seal and they all resemble each other, and the blessed, holy King of Kings of Kings minted each person with the seal of Adam the First, and not one resembles the other...

23. Mishnah, Avot 4:4

Be very, very humble.

24. Mishnah, Avot 1:15

Speak little, and do a lot.

25. Talmud, Yevamot 79a

There are three signs for this nation: Merciful, bashful, and generous... One who has these three signs is suited to cleave to this nation.

26. Rabbi Hershel Schachter, *A Way of Life for Women and Men*

[http://www.torahweb.org/audio/rsch\\_051414.html](http://www.torahweb.org/audio/rsch_051414.html)

Usually, a person makes a painting, a person builds a house, a person writes a book, a person composes a song, so you know who the author is... HaKadosh Baruch Hu [Gd] is a Kel Mistater [a Gd who hides Himself], He created the whole world and He runs everything from behind the scenes, and everything is done in a hidden fashion... So HaKadosh Baruch Hu [Gd] tells us "*v'halachta b'drachav* [You shall walk in His ways]" we have this middah [trait] of *tznius* within us, that's what *tznius* means...

27. Rabbi Hershel Schachter, *A Way of Life for Women and Men*

Sometimes somebody comes into shul and he davens out loud, he's screaming on top of his lungs, has to let everybody know that he's here. Someone else has *yahrtzeit* and he davens for an *amud* and he davens in a whisper. Just, that everybody should know that he's different from everybody else. Another guy comes into the office or into the shul or into the *beis medrash* with an orange sweater or a red, loud red sweater or something, just to announce to everybody that he's here. Or someone will come and he'll sit all the way in front, someone will come and sit all the way in the back, to show, everybody should see that he's different from everybody else, to draw attention to himself. So that's what *tznius* means – a person should act and speak in such a fashion that he should not stand out...

28. Mishnah, Avot 2:5

The one who is bashful will not learn.

29. Rabbi Hershel Schachter, *A Way of Life for Women and Men*

Once in a while HaKadosh Baruch Hu [Gd] makes a *gilui Shechinah* [Revelation]... On rare occasions we have no choice, we have to do things *b'farhesya* [in public] as well. I always talk in public so I'm always violating the *middas hatznius*... You have to have someone should be the president of the shul, someone has to be the president of the country, someone has to be the Rosh haMemshalah, someone has to be the Chief of Police, the mayor, the governor and so on...