

# High-waist vs. Low-rise Skirts

Both men and women have been wearing skirts for hundreds of years. They have shifted purposes over the years, and morphed into many distinguishing incarnations. Many people find that they feel more comfortable in certain skirts than others, or that some skirts simply are a better reflection of their personality. Both high-waist and low-rise skirts are popular trends today. They are each seen as fashionable in their own right. However, there are certain benefits to wearing one over the other, and vice versa. Since high-waist and low-rise skirts are both popular trends, they can be found at many different brick and mortar stores, specialty stores, and online retailers, like [eBay](#). By learning about skirts, including how they are defined and the types of skirts available, shoppers are able to learn the differences between high-waist and low-rise skirts. Customers can see how women wear these types of skirts, and how they can be seen as appropriate or inappropriate in daily life.

## What are Skirts?

[Skirts](#) are generally classified into categories due to distinguishing features. Most all skirts follow the same basic concept: a piece of fabric formed around the waist into either a tube or cone shape. Most often, these skirts are women's wear. However, in certain cultures, men wear skirts. Scottish men sometimes wear a kilt to express their national identity. Over time, skirts have evolved from metres of fabric to just enough fabric to cover one's bottom.

## Types of Skirts

There are dozens of types of skirts. The [miniskirt](#) is identifiable by its short length. When standing, it measures from waist to thigh. The micro mini is even shorter. They are products of the 1960s, when women were testing the boundaries of sexuality, and society's perception of women. The [poodle skirt](#) was quite popular in the 1950s, and is a long skirt that forms a circle when laid out flat with the waist in the middle part of the circle. It is much more conservative than other skirts, as it usually falls to the floor or ankle and is loosely fit along the legs.

The [maxi skirt](#) has recently made a comeback from its first incarnation in the 1970s. It is a very long, more loosely-fitted skirt that reaches all the way to the floor. Equally popular today is the pencil skirt, which is a high waisted tight skirt that conforms to the shape of the woman's body, from waist to knee. There is usually a seam up the back to allow the woman to gain more of a gait while walking. It is seen commonly in women's work wear.

It is clear that skirts are defined by their length, the amount of fabric used, the type of fabric used, as well as certain details, like appliances and pleating. A [kilt skirt](#) could not be called this if it were not for the pleating involved. Likewise, a poodle skirt would not look authentic without an applique. Most types of skirts are either high-waist or low-rise. A smaller percentage are able to fit in either category. The following chart represents the likelihood for styles of skirts to be either high-waist, low-rise or both.

Skirt Type	High-Waist	Low-Rise
Miniskirt	Yes	Yes
Maxi Skirt	No	Yes
Pencil Skirt	Yes	No
A-Line Skirt	Yes	Yes
Sarong	No	Yes
Bubble Skirt	No	Yes
Poodle Skirt	Yes	No

## What are High-Waist Skirts?

The natural waistline for a person, especially a woman, is above the hips and below the ribcage. Wearing a skirt at this position ensures that the stomach, particularly the lower stomach and hip area, is not exposed. For this reason, traditionally, [high-waist skirts](#) have been seen as more conservative. Many older styles of skirts, like the poodle skirt, and the A-Line skirt have designed first to fall from the natural waist.

## How Do Women Wear High-Waist Skirts?

In recent years, women and fashion designers have found ways to make high-waist skirts more risqué. Some women pair a cropped shirt with a high-waist skirt to expose a small amount of skin just above the stomach and below the breasts. Other women may wear high-waist skirts that are form fitting, and accentuate the curves of a woman's stomach, buttocks, and legs. Many believe that [pencil skirts](#), due to their fitted nature, are at a sexual juxtaposition. Though they clearly show the shape of a woman, she is also covered, and it is commonly seen as acceptable for her to wear this dress to work. Others feel that the pencil skirt sexualises women in the workforce.

## The Benefits and Drawbacks of High-Waist Skirts

High-waist skirts are especially flattering on women who are more curvy. They accentuate the waist, making women appear smaller. They also hide the lower stomach region, an area where many women carry weight. These styles also tend to be more timeless and conservative. However, some women feel that high-waist skirts are dated, since they were the major option in previous generations, particularly their mother's generation. For this reason, some feel that high-waist skirts have a vintage look to them.

## **What are Low-rise Skirts?**

[Low-rise skirts](#) typically sit around the person's hips, an inch or two below the belly button, depending on the length of the person's torso. They are not to be worn at the natural waist, or low enough to expose women's buttocks or vaginal area. They are seen as less conservative, due to their lower position on the body. For some, wearing a skirt this low arouses more attention. Women's bodies, in particular their stomach are on display a bit more and there is a threat of the skirt slipping further to reveal private areas, though this school of thinking is not shared with every person.

## **How Do Women Wear Low-rise Skirts?**

Many current styles capitalise on the laid-back and comfortable nature of a low-rise skirt. Boho style incorporates low-rise skirts as a part of seemingly effortless beauty. Maternity wear, which often includes skirts is most likely to follow a low-rise pattern. Since a woman's stomach protrudes greatly when she is pregnant, wearing a skirt below the belly emphasises the fact that the woman is pregnant, and has not simply gained weight. It is also much more comfortable for these women to have this less-restrictive style.

## **The Benefits and Drawbacks of Low-rise skirts**

It is common for women to find low-rise skirts more comfortable, as they are less restrictive on the abdominal region. They also appear more modern, since they are so frequently used in types of skirts today. For women who are in shape, it is also a great way to show off one's stomach. However, this can be a drawback for women with a higher percentage of belly fat. With just a top concealing a large part of the stomach, low-rise skirts can prove to be a little too revealing for some. Since many low-rise skirts are a more relaxed, less restrictive form, wearing a fitted top is the best option. There are also tighter, and shorter skirts that are low-rise, but those can easily be seen as too revealing and sexual.

## **How to Buy High-waist and Low-rise Skirts on eBay**

Now that you have learned some of the differences and benefits of low-rise and high-waist skirts, it is time to find the best skirt for you on [eBay](#). eBay is an especially good resource because of the format. It allows customers to sort items that they found using keywords or by browsing categories. They can easily compare prices and learn about them by provided seller information.

For example, if you were looking for a "[low-rise black skirt](#)" to match a frilly top, you would enter that information into the search bar. Browsing through categories is another great way to discover what you may be looking for. Remember to use synonyms to generate more, or different, results.

Seller feedback is important to determining if a seller is right for you. By viewing feedback, you are listening to the overall experiences of individuals who were in your shoes, shoppers like yourself. Take it with a grain of salt, however, as some buyers have different expectations than others. Never hesitate to ask a seller questions. Sellers know much more about their products than you do, and are often quite helpful.

## **Conclusion**

Styles of skirts have changed over decades, and should continue to change over coming years. It is safe to say that though high-waist or low-rise skirts may dip in and out of popularity, like all fashion they will eventually come back into favour. The type of skirt also affects the way it looks on women. Therefore, one high-waist skirt in one style may look better than another high-waist skirt in another style. There are benefits to either type, and much is a matter of preference. Each can be revealing in their own right, so people should be careful to wear them so as not to exacerbate a negative perception of oneself. While some may favour a high-waist poodle skirt, others may enjoy a low-rise peasant skirt. This is not to say that people must choose one or the other. Many women have figures that look just as good in high-waist as low-rise skirts. Women should choose based on their environment, their body shape, and their own preferences.

high-waist skirt|low-waist skirt|mini skirt|maxi skirt|kilt skirt