

*Stylin':*

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## Spring fashions will look familiar

**BY SAMANTHA THOMPSON SMITH, Staff Writer**

Here's a big reason to be excited about what's new in fashion for spring: A lot of what's expected to be in style likely is already in your closet.

At least, that's the forecast from the Charlotte-based department store chain Belk.

Patterned dresses, ruffled blouses, lightweight scarves and statement necklaces are some of what the store's planning on being "most wanted" pieces for spring, says Arlene Goldstein, Belk's vice president of trend merchandising.

"Look in your closet and see what still works for you and what still fits, and then tweak it," says Goldstein, who was in Raleigh last week to talk about spring fashion.

She gave a sneak peek at Belk's spring Look Book, which should hit homes throughout the Southeast the first week of March. Popular looks for spring include maxi and mini dresses, shoes with dramatic architectural heels, floral-pattern dresses, skirts and jewelry and anything in white, from shoes to sunglasses.

"A lot of the styles are going to be familiar, but the consumer will still find enough newness," she says.

Much of what we'll see will be a continuation of styles that have been in stores for the past few seasons, only in brighter spring colors or more summery patterns. For instance, the belted look will still be strong, on anything from dresses to jackets. Same with the long, boyfriend cardigan and the ruffled blouse, which can be paired with a simple straight skirt, a full skirt or jeans. Expect to see people again stacking their bracelets and necklaces, or simply wearing one dramatic statement necklace as the centerpiece of an outfit.

The colors of spring won't stray too far from what we've been used to, either. White, of course, is a perennial spring/summer favorite. Fruity colors, including lemon, orange and coral, will continue to be popular, especially on accessories. And shades of blue will dominate again, especially cobalt and aqua, she says.

While there will be plenty of familiar pieces to pick from, Goldstein encouraged taking chances on new looks. "Don't be shy," she says. "Get out of your comfort zone."

Read [the Fashion Plate blog](#). Contact Samantha Smith know at 919-829-4563 or [samantha.smith@newsobserver.com](mailto:samantha.smith@newsobserver.com).

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