

Detroit Free Press

A man's guide to sandals

FREE PRESS STAFF REPORT

Sunday, May 19, 2006

Men and sandals. Not always a good thing. But with trimmed toenails, no socks and the proper shoes to suit your style, it can be a fine combination. Did we mention no socks?

THONG

The look: Two straps that go across the top of the foot.

What it says about you: You're ultra-laidback; perfect for that chinos and jeans, tanned, fresh from the beach look.

The poster boy: Matthew McConaughey. Think Matthew McConaughey in a thong. No, sandal.

SLIDE

The look: Considered mules, with no back and a strap or straps that go across the foot.

What it says about you: Birkenstocks say you're more traditional, down-to-earth; sport-style slides are reminiscent of rowdy European soccer players;

The poster boy: Ecology-minded Al Gore, who we suspect wore Birkenstocks while he was inventing the Internet.

SPORT

The look: Durable rubber foot bed, snug straps over the toes and around the ankle. Synthetic materials dry quickly.

What it says about you: I'm an outdoorsman. Or, "Do these shoes make me look active?"

The poster boy: Just the thing for "Survivor: Panama" winner Aras Baskauskas.

DRESS

The style: High-end designer style and prices, with fine leather.

What it says about you: Fashion before comfort. "I am cool no matter what you mutter under your breath."

Poster boy: Jay Z, who is so sharp he can pull off anything.

Source: Discounter www.grapevinehill.com, which sells all the styles mentioned.

Grapevinehill

>> A MAN'S GUIDE TO sandals

THONG
The look: Two straps that go across the top of the foot.
What it says about you: You're ultra-laidback; perfect for that chinos and jeans, tanned, fresh from the beach look.
The poster boy: Matthew McConaughey. Think Matthew McConaughey in a thong. No, sandal.
Shows: www.fox.com

SLIDE
The look: Considered mules, with no back and a strap or straps that go across the foot.
What it says about you: Birkenstocks say you're more traditional, down-to-earth; sport-style slides are reminiscent of rowdy European soccer players.
The poster boy: Ecology-minded Al Gore, who we suspect wore Birkenstocks while he was inventing the Internet.
Shows: www.birkenstock.com

FISHERMAN
The look: Durable rubber foot bed, snug straps over the toes and around the ankle. Synthetic materials dry quickly.
What it says about you: I'm an outdoorsman. Or, "Do these shoes make me look active?"
The poster boy: "Survivor: Panama" winner Aras Baskauskas.
Shows: www.fox.com

DRESS
The style: High-end designer style and prices, with fine leather.
What it says about you: Fashion before comfort. "I am cool no matter what you mutter under your breath."
Poster boy: Jay Z, who is so sharp he can pull off anything.
Shows: www.fox.com

SPORT
The look: Considered mules, with no back and a strap or straps that go across the foot.
What it says about you: Birkenstocks say you're more traditional, down-to-earth; sport-style slides are reminiscent of rowdy European soccer players.
The poster boy: Ecology-minded Al Gore, who we suspect wore Birkenstocks while he was inventing the Internet.
Shows: www.birkenstock.com

7 rules about wearing sandals
1. Trim the toenails. You can't wear sandals if you don't have them.
2. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.
3. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.
4. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.
5. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.
6. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.
7. Don't wear them if you're not sure you can pull them off.