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Sexy summer dressing gets workers hot under the collar

Sexy summer dressing is getting British workers hot under the collar with over a quarter (28%) admitting to being distracted by scantily clad colleagues, according to new research from uSwitchforbusiness.com, the independent business energy broker.

Both men and women let their standards slip when it comes to dressing for work in the summer, but the fairer sex seem to be the biggest culprits. Over half of Brits (52%) say that women in their workplace dress more inappropriately in the summer months, while just three in ten (30%) say the same of men.

And forget about the glass ceiling, the biggest battle of the sexes is over the office dress code. Four in ten workers (41%) say that women get a better deal than men, while just one in ten (11%) claim that the dress code is fairer on men.

But despite enjoying greater leniency, ladies are the cheekiest when it comes to flouting the rules and flashing the flesh. Over half of workers (53%) say that when the sun shines women are guiltiest of breaking the office dress code - just one in ten (10%) point the finger at men. See-through tops are the biggest summertime 'no no' for female workers (74%), while flip flops get the biggest thumbs down for men (74%). Incredibly, 15% of people think it is inappropriate for male workers to remove their tie in the summer.

Almost half of employees have been left embarrassed by a colleague dressing inappropriately (45%) while a third (34%) say that those who break the rules run the risk of becoming the subject of office gossip.

However, the problem with skimpy summertime dressing runs deeper than office banter and red-faced workers. The worrying news for bosses is that nearly three in ten workers (29%) are worried that a colleague's dress sense reflects badly on the business as a whole, while a fifth (20%) are put off bringing clients or business contacts into the office.

James Constant, Director of uSwitchforbusiness.com, says: “The sun may put a smile on our faces, but sexy summer dressing is getting workers hot under the collar. When the sun comes out some workers will try to get away with wearing as few clothes as possible. But while they are happy flashing the flesh, their colleagues are getting shirty about their dress sense.

“Nobody wants to see a return to strict, inflexible and formal dress at work, but likewise no-one wants to see employees embarrassed or distracted. It’s about achieving the right balance. Establishing a dress code that suits your business can help to keep staff happy and professional and will help your business to run smoothly even in the summer heat.”

Summer sun: female workers dressed ‘inappropriately’

	Region	Women
1	Wales	65%
2	London	64%
3	North West	58%
4	South West	57%
5	North East	53%
6	Midlands	51%
7	South East	50%
8	Scotland	37%

Summer sun: male workers dressed ‘inappropriately’

	Region	Men
1	Scotland	39%
2	South West	37%
3	Midlands	33%
4	North West	29%
5	London	28%
6	North East	26%
7	South East	25%
8	Wales	23%

For more information visit www.uswitchforbusiness.com or call 0800 051 5343

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Notes to editors:

Research carried out online with the uSwitch.com Consumer Opinion Panel on behalf of uSwitchforBusiness.com in July 2011, among 1,230 British adults.

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