A tonal coffee-grey cardigan outfit with cream layers

Tonal color planner • Free, no signup or purchase.

Build a tonal outfit from a coffee-grey cardigan, a cream base and one more quiet neutral. Choose related shades, let one knit carry the texture, and compare the real colors in daylight before buying anything to match. The free tonal color planner records each shade and how the pieces look together.

You need

- A coffee-grey or similar grey-brown cardigan you own or are considering
- A cream top you already own
- Trousers or a skirt in cream, brown or another quiet neutral
- Shoes and a bag in a neutral you already own
- A window with daylight
- The free tonal color planner (PDF) printed on US Letter paper, and a pen

1 Choose related neutrals

Start with the cardigan and a cream base. Add a bottom in a warm brown, taupe or cream rather than trying to match the cardigan exactly. Write each piece and its shade on the planner.

2 Keep one texture

Let one piece, usually the cardigan, carry the visible texture and keep the others smoother. Check whether the knit sheds onto the cream top or catches on jewelry and bag straps.

3 Compare the shades in daylight

Lay the pieces side by side near a window and note whether each shade reads warm, cool or neutral beside the others. Screens and AI illustrations can show colors differently from actual garments.

4 Finish with shoes and a bag

Choose shoes and a bag in one of the outfit's neutrals so nothing breaks the tonal line. Note anything you would change before buying another piece.

Tips

- If two pieces look almost, but not quite, the same shade, try a clearer contrast between them.
- Check the cream top for show-through under the open cardigan in daylight as well as indoor light.

Important

Optional Amazon links are affiliate links. Check the current product dimensions, color, fabric and return terms before buying. Other pictured pieces are separate; the illustration is an AI concept.

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1. Shades

Piece	Item and shade	Warm / cool / neutral
Cardigan		
Cream base		
Bottom		
Shoes		
Bag		

2. Texture and daylight (tick when done)

- ☐ Only one piece carries strong texture
- ☐ Knit does not shed or catch
- ☐ Shades compared in daylight

3. Decision

Outfit I will wear _____

Shade I would change _____

Extra writing space

Planning aid. Check the size chart and the care label of the garment you choose.