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Rainboots: Chic Summer Shower Solutions



In every life, a little rain must fall - unless you live in Los Angeles. But for us East Coast girls especially, we know that for each sunny day there's a storm cloud waiting to move in. It's not always such a bad thing: meteorologically speaking, rain can be the great equalizer, relieving the pressure of days spent dripping in wet, humid heat. Sometimes, there's nothing more enlivening than a warm-weather storm, while a rainy summer morning can be a great excuse to lounge around the house in sweatpants. Unfortunately, rain is also a sworn enemy of shoes. Strappy sandals wilt in a rainstorm, cork wedges bloat, and leather is never the same after a run-in with a deceptively deep puddle. Once, I leapt barefoot through a flash thunderstorm in order to protect my new shoes, risking my soles, rather than my footwear, against the New York City streets. The weather will always have the power to take us off-guard, but in order to avoid a shoe disaster (or hopping shoeless down the sidewalk like a crazy person) check out our picks for cute Summer 2009 rain boots.

the classics

The Hunter Wellington is the original rain boot, named after the first Duke of Wellington who invented the style to fit under trousers. It was 1817 when men's fashions had just begun to shift away from short-pants, or breeches, and the Duke - Arthur Wellesley - instructed his shoemaker to respond in kind. An American entrepreneur caught glimpse of these soft, calfskin boots, and decided to try them in rubber. Et voila - the Hunter Wellington was born. These days, wellies continue to benefit from fashion's early adopters; in 2005 after Kate Moss was photographed traipsing through the mud in short shorts and black Hunter boots at the Glastonbury festival, sales of the all-weather shoes skyrocketed. Since then, the company has debuted wellies in all sorts of appealing colors - the style, for the most part, stays the same. Be a rainy-day Barbarella in these silver [Hunter boots \(\\$125\)](#), or go old-school equestrian in these two-tone [Lady N Rain boots \(\\$140\)](#), which also pay homage to a popular British pub drink, the black and tan.

Other attractive classic rain boots include the [Aquatalia by Mark K. Wasabi \(\\$298\)](#) and the sleek yet tough Tiga from pro-waterproof shoe company [La Canadienne \(\\$141 on sale\)](#). Stay dry, and within budget, with the Women's Tall [Zetta Rainboot](#), available in a wide selection of colors for just \$24.99.

