



Life & Home

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Shopping: Men's sandals

While women can't wait to wiggle their freshly pedicured toes in sandals every spring, warm weather presents a conundrum for guys, who fear exposed feet are only for hippies or Abercrombie & Fitch models.

Don't sweat your athletic socks, men. Michael Ray, founder of online footwear retailer Grapevinehill.com, is eager to help you go open toe with confidence.

It helps to know a slide from a sport sandal. Then, you've got to figure out what a sandal says about you (keeping in mind that it won't be anything good unless you trim those gnarly nails).

Whatever your pick, do not — repeat: DO NOT — wear sandals with socks. Ever.

Thongs: Commonly called flip-flops, they feature a single strap that goes between the big and second toe. Make a guy look ultra laid-back, California-cool, especially when paired with chinos or jeans.

Slide sandals: One or two thick leather straps across the top of the foot. Tells people you've made a style choice and didn't just default to whatever was in your back seat.

Fisherman's sandals: Offers the most coverage, with several straps across the top of the foot, ankle and toes. The mature person's sandal, it says you've arrived, you don't care what anyone thinks and you demand stylish comfort.

Sport sandals: Snug-fitting straps across the toes and around the ankle with a contoured rubber foot bed. Warning: A 10-year-old pair of Tevas says you came of age in the '90s and got stuck there. Newer, more aerodynamic designs can look decent in a low-maintenance way that tells the world you'd rather be in woods.

