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## Best Work Bags for Women of 2024

By [Deirdre Mundorf](#)



Reviewed by [Marlo Jappen Porto](#)

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In addition to being functional and offering all the compartments you need to keep your belongings organized, you want your work bag to be stylish and professional. Think about the items you need to carry, the materials that you prefer for a bag, and your budget. Whether for yourself or as a gift, we put together a list of the best work bags for women to suit different needs.

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## Best Overall

### Cuyana System Tote »



#### PROS:

- ✓ Customizable
- ✓ Two sizes available
- ✓ Sophisticated Italian leather construction

#### CONS:

- ✗ Pricey
- ✗ Add-on accessories sold separately

[Buy From Cuyana](#)

The Cuyana System Tote features an integrated snap system, allowing each user to customize the bag to match their needs. You can choose from a variety of inserts – available for purchase separately – and snap them into place to set up all the pockets and compartments you need to keep everything organized for work. Some of the available inserts include a laptop sleeve, a zippered pouch, and a flap bag. The bag has two integrated handles, but, if you prefer to carry it over your shoulder, you can add an adjustable strap, which comes in two different width options.

Cuyana offers this bag in two sizes – 13 and 16 inches – to accommodate different needs. For instance, if you need to carry a 16-inch laptop, your best bet is the larger option. This work bag is crafted from Italian leather and is available in six neutral colors that are a good match for professional settings.

Specs

List Price:	Starting at \$328 (13-Inch, pebbled)
Material(s):	Italian leather
Dimensions:	13.25 in. W x 5 in. D x 10 in. H (13-Inch), 19 in. W x 5.5 in. D x 11 in. H (16-Inch)

[Buy From Cuyana »](#)

Best Budget

Herschel Classic Tote »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Relatively inexpensive
- ✓ Made from recycled water bottles
- ✓ Six color and pattern options

**CONS:**

- ✗ May be too casual for some workplaces
- ✗ Limited pockets

[Buy From Herschel](#)

The Herschel Classic Tote retails for \$40, making it the least expensive option on our list. This tote offers a more basic design with a large internal pocket to hold all of your belongings. It also has a storage sleeve on the interior, but you may need to invest in a few bag inserts to better keep everything organized. The metal snap closure helps prevent items from falling out.

This tote may also be a suitable choice for those who prefer eco-friendly products, as it's made from recycled water bottles. Six different color and pattern options are available to suit different styles, though the fabric may look too casual for some workplaces. Equipped with two smooth-webbing handles, you can carry the bag over your shoulder or in your hands.

## Specs

List Price:	\$40
Material(s):	EcoSystem 600D fabric (recycled water bottles)
Dimensions:	19.25 in. W x 5.5 in. D x 14 in. H

[Buy From Herschel »](#)

### Best for Commuting

## Fossil Elina Convertible Backpack »



### PROS:

- ✓ Converts from backpack to shoulder bag for easy carrying
- ✓ Zippered closure

### CONS:

- ✗ No laptop sleeve
- ✗ Not the most budget-friendly

[Buy From Fossil](#)

✓ Stylish design

The Fossil Elina Convertible Backpack offers its namesake convertible design, making it ideal for those who commute. Wear it as a backpack as you navigate busy streets or public transportation, and then convert it to a shoulder bag for client meetings or other professional events. Switching between the two carrying options is simple: You just need to adjust the placement of the straps, and you'll be ready to get on with your day.

The Elina Convertible Backpack is roomy enough to fit a 16-inch laptop. It features one interior side pocket with a zippered main compartment. Sleek and elegant, it's available in three office-friendly designs: brown, black, and a patterned option.

Specs

List Price:

\$330

Material(s):

Leather with polyurethane trim exterior and recycled polyester interior

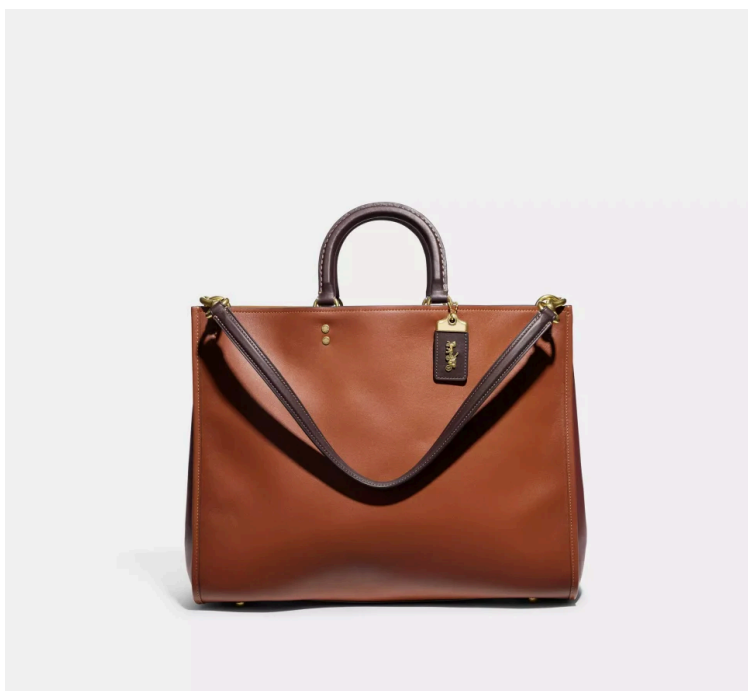
Dimensions:

12 in. W x 4.25 in. D x 14.5 in. H

[Buy From Fossil »](#)

Best Splurge

Coach Rogue 39 In Colorblock »

**PROS:**

- ✓ Quality leather construction
- ✓ Zippered compartment
- ✓ Detachable straps

**CONS:**

- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Only holds 13-inch laptop

[Buy From Coach](#)

If you're looking to splurge in the name of style and function, take a look at the Rogue 39 in Colorblock from Coach. This attractive work bag is made using high-quality, natural pebble leather and glove-tanned leather. Three elegant finishes are available: black, saddle, and army green. This bag features integrated handles along with a detachable strap, allowing for flexible carrying options. If you prefer to carry it by the handles, you can remove the strap for a more streamlined look. There are four metal feet along the bottom to keep the leather from getting scuffed or dirty when placed on the floor.

In addition to style, Coach designed the Rogue 39 with function in mind. It offers a wide assortment of pockets and compartments, including interior snap and multifunction pockets, two open slots, and a credit card slot. The

zippered closure helps keep all of your belongings safe and secure. While this is on the smaller side for a work bag, it’s large enough to accommodate a 13-inch laptop.

Specs

List Price:	\$1,095
Material(s):	Pebble leather, glove-tanned leather, and fabric and leather lining
Dimensions:	11.75 in. W x 7 in. D x 15.25 in. H

[Buy From Coach »](#)

Best for Compartments

Calpak Haven Laptop Tote Bag »



PROS:

CONS:



- ✓ Removable laptop sleeve with several pockets and compartments
- ✓ Adjustable strap
- ✓ Several color choices

- ✗ Handles may be too short for some
- ✗ Not genuine leather

[Buy From Calpak](#)

Find a place for everything you need to carry with the Calpak Haven Laptop Tote Bag. This tote bag offers several pockets and compartments to keep you organized and ready to take on the day. It comes with a removable insert, offering a spacious laptop pocket (for computers up to 16 inches); four exterior pockets; and three interior pockets. Take the insert out to get everything loaded, and then slide it into the bag to be on your way.

The Calpak Haven Laptop Tote Bag has a faux leather finish, which gives it an attractive and professional look without the higher price tag of a genuine leather bag. There are several colors to choose from, ranging from neutral tones to bolder hues. This model has a removable and adjustable strap along with two handles to allow users different carrying options.

## Specs

**List Price:** \$180

**Material(s):** Polyurethane leather and polyester

**Dimensions:** 16 in. W x 5 in. D x 12.5 in. H

[Buy From Calpak »](#)

## Best Eco-Friendly

**Terra Thread Executive Work Tote Bag »**

**PROS:**

- ✓ Constructed from Fairtrade certified organic cotton canvas
- ✓ Several color choices
- ✓ Separate compartment for 15-inch laptop

**CONS:**

- ✗ No zipper
- ✗ May be too casual for some professions

[Buy From Target](#)

The Terra Thread Executive Work Tote Bag is a top pick for those looking to carry their workplace essentials in an eco-friendly bag. This tote is made using Fairtrade certified organic cotton canvas and is manufactured in a Fairtrade certified facility, which means that its production met high standards for sustainability and workplace safety.

Terra Thread works to reduce shipping waste by using minimal packing materials. Moreover, the company donates proceeds from each purchase to Feeding America's campaign to donate meals to children and families in need.

This organic cotton bag is sold in 12 colors. With earthy colors, such as chestnut brown and ivory brown, along with bolder tones, like ruby red, deep sea teal, and moss green, each shopper can find an option that fits their style.

The Executive Work Tote Bag from Terra Thread is large enough to carry up to a 15-inch laptop. It features an internal laptop pocket and a [water bottle](#) pocket. The bag also has an external pocket with a zippered closure and an external drop-in pocket. The main pocket has a snap closure to keep your belongings easily accessible while preventing them from sliding out of the bag.

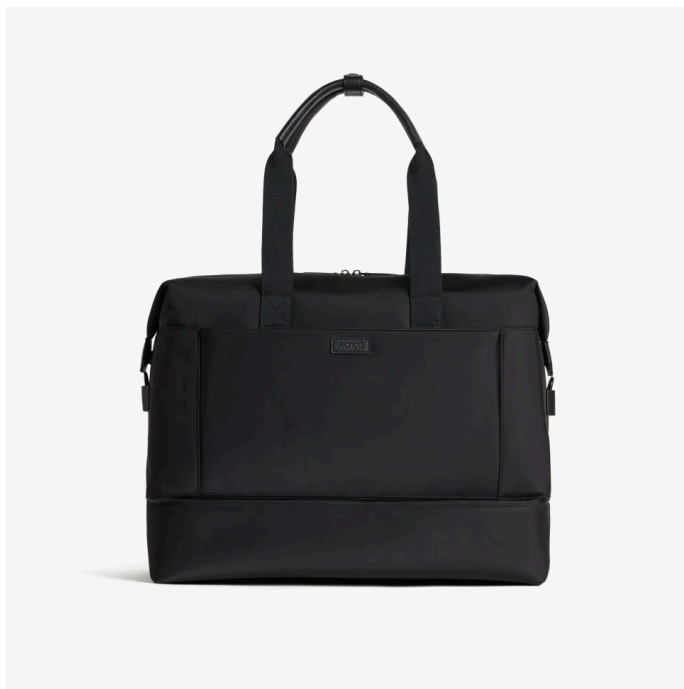
Specs

List Price:	\$48.99
Material(s):	Fairtrade certified organic cotton canvas
Dimensions:	14 in. W x 4 in. D x 16 in. H

[Buy From Target »](#)

Best Extra-Large

Monos Metro Weekender »

**PROS:**

- ✓ 47.5-liter volume
- ✓ Several compartments and pockets, including trolley sleeve for travel
- ✓ Can fit 16-inch laptop

**CONS:**

- ✗ Not genuine leather
- ✗ Heavy

[Buy From Metro Weekender](#)

If you need to carry a lot to the office or want extra space for a last-minute business trip, you should take a look at the Monos Metro Weekender. This stylish bag offers plenty of room to hold all of your work essentials and then some. It offers a 16-inch laptop compartment, a large main compartment with a zippered pocket, a magnetic-closure end pocket, and side pockets. The base of the bag also zips open, revealing a large compartment that's ideal for carrying a spare pair of shoes.

Monos offers this bag in either vegan leather or nylon. Both options feature a trolley sleeve, making it easier to carry the bag with your [suitcase](#) when you're traveling. If you're not pulling it with a suitcase, the trolley sleeve can be converted into an extra pocket for holding other supplies.

## Specs

**List Price:** Starting at \$250 (Nylon)

**Material(s):** Nylon twill with ultramicrofibre vegan leather accents or vegan leather

**Dimensions:** 19.25 in. W x 10.25 in. D x 14.75 in. H

[Buy From Metro Weekender »](#)

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## The Bottom Line

We chose the Cuyana System Tote as our top pick for the best work bags for women because of its attractive leather construction, two available sizes, and multiple customization options. However, depending on your budget, profession, daily commute, or other factors, you may decide one of our other selections is a better fit for you.

## Things To Consider When Buying Work Bags for Women

**Size and Capacity:** Choosing a work bag with the ideal capacity is crucial. You want to ensure your bag is large enough to carry everything you need without being unnecessarily heavy or bulky. To help you choose an appropriately sized bag, you can

lay out everything you plan to carry. Doing so can help you visualize the amount of space you'll need.

If you carry your laptop to and from work, many manufacturers specify the largest laptop size that their bag will accommodate. If you aren't sure of the size of your laptop, measure it before shopping. Just remember, the screen size is measured diagonally.

If you travel regularly for work or want to be able to carry a change of clothes for the gym from time to time, you may want to look for a bag with a larger capacity than you'd need for the usual daily grind.

**Material:** When deciding on the best fabric for your bag, think about appearance, durability, and care. Leather and faux leather are two popular options for women's work bags, and both can help deliver a professional look. Genuine leather is known for its durability and longevity, but it also requires a larger upfront investment.

The material you choose will also impact the overall weight of the bag. Genuine leather bags tend to be heavier, so nylon or canvas may be a better option for those looking for a lightweight bag. If you walk to work or use public transportation, you may want a bag made from water-resistant materials, such as waxed canvas, polyester, or nylon. These materials are also more likely to be [machine-washable](#), though you should still consult the manufacturer's recommendations.

**Closure:** Some bags have an open design, but while this can make it easier to put items in and take them out, it isn't as secure if you're traveling or taking public transportation. The contents are also more likely to spill out if the bag tips over or you need to slam on the brakes in the car.

"If you carry a [laptop](#) or [tablet](#) for work, a zipper compartment that's large enough to fit it is imperative. That's harder to find than you'd think, but so important for peace of mind when you're commuting in poor weather," shares Kate Breen, personal stylist and image consultant with GetDressedGo. Buttoned closures can also help contain your contents, but they won't offer the same level of protection as a zipper.

**Straps:** Don't overlook the straps and handles on the work bags you're considering! Their design will directly impact your comfort. First, consider the length of the straps and whether or not it can be adjusted. Adjustable straps help you position the bag so it's the most comfortable to carry based on your height and body type. You should

also note the width of the straps. Not only are wider straps likely to be more durable than thinner ones, but they'll also help more evenly distribute the weight of the bag on your shoulder. Looking for bags with a pad on the strap is also a good idea because it'll provide more cushioning to prevent the strap from digging into your shoulder.

For versatility, look for work bags that can be carried in different ways. For example, a bag with handles and an adjustable/removable shoulder strap could be carried as a briefcase, over one shoulder, or as a cross-body bag.

**Compartments and Organization:** A work bag must be functional. You want to keep your belongings organized and easy to access – no one wants to root around in their bag for an important file in front of their boss or spend five minutes trying to find their cell phone charger. Bags with multiple compartments and pockets will provide a place for everything and keep things organized.

Think about what you need to carry in your work bag, and look for models that'll hold all of those items. Consider a bag with a dedicated laptop compartment and multiple interior and exterior pockets of varying sizes to hold everything from a notebook to pens. If the bag doesn't have enough compartments, Christina Stein, the CEO of and personal stylist with Style By Christina, recommends using bag inserts. She explains, "They are a lifesaver for not only keeping you organized but they also can help keep the shape of your bag."

**Durability:** "If you are using this bag every day and you add a lot of weight to it, durability will determine whether you have this bag for 6 months or 6 years," says Stein. She highlights leather as one of the most durable and long-lasting materials. Waxed canvas and polyester work bags may not last as long, but they're durable options for those who don't have the budget for a genuine leather bag.

Other factors beyond the material can also impact durability. Reinforced stitching, for example, will make a bag more durable. The seams are much more likely to hold up longer, even when you're carrying heavier items. You should also look for heavy-duty hardware and zippers for a work bag that'll stand the test of time.

**Style:** "It's really important to find a work bag that complements your overall work style," says Breen. She adds, "Pairing a fantastic look with a tired, ratty, basic backpack is the shortest path to visually downgrading everything you've worked so

hard for in your closet." Breen recommends choosing a sleek and structured bag. "Bulk is the enemy of chic," she says, "so forgo slouchy fabrics in favor of structured shapes in stiffer leathers."

In addition to the overall style of the bag, consider whether the color will complement or detract from your attire. Stein shares, "I always say sticking with a neutral [color] that can go with the majority of your wardrobe is always best, that way you aren't trying to have more than one work bag."

## How We Chose the Best Work Bags for Women

We considered the viewpoints and feedback provided by customers and professional reviewers along with some pointers shared with us by two personal stylists to curate this list. Kate Breen is a personal stylist and image consultant with [GetDressedGo](#), and Christina Stein is the CEO and personal stylist with [Style By Christina](#). To help us finalize our recommendations, we also considered factors such as price, material, capacity, compartments and pockets, and overall aesthetics.

### WHY SHOULD YOU TRUST US?

[Deirdre Mundorf](#), the author of this piece, has more than five years of experience writing product reviews. A regular contributor to U.S. News 360 Reviews, she has covered relevant topics including the [best laptop bags](#), [briefcases for men](#), and [messenger bags](#). Additionally, you can find her work featured in other online publications, including USA Today, Bob Vila, and House Digest.

## FAQ

**What type of women's work bags are in style right now?**



**How big should my work bag be?**





**How do I clean my work bag?**



**How do I keep my work bag organized?**



## About Our Team



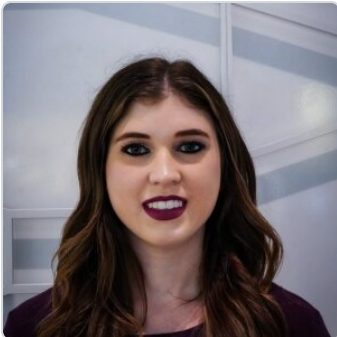
### Deirdre Mundorf

Contributor



Mundorf is a freelance writer who specializes in home goods, family, and pet content. She has more than three years of experience as a professional writer and her work has been featured in [Bob Vila](#), [Discover Magazine](#), and [House Digest](#). Prior to her freelancing career, Mundorf was an elementary school teacher for more than a decade.

[Read more](#)



### Marlo Jappen Porto

Former Editor



Marlo Jappen Porto is a former editor for U.S. News 360 Reviews, focusing on home goods. Prior to joining the team, she was a researcher at NBCUniversal, where she gathered compelling and relevant archival content for live broadcasts. In addition, she has spent years working as an editor and community journalist.

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