

CREATING A LIP THAT LASTS

Christmas party season is in full effect and most women view this as a great opportunity to do a little extra with their makeup. But between the eating, the drinking, and the kissing under the mistletoe, our lip color quickly shows signs of fading and tiredness and does not continue to give us a colorful smile for all the picture taking that is sure to happen. How do you make your lip color last and look as fabulous as when you arrived?

Before I do any makeup application, I begin by preparing the skin to make it as ready as possible so that the makeup goes on nicely and the same goes for the lips. A great and easy way to exfoliate them is to gently brush them with your toothbrush after you are done brushing your teeth. This takes any flaky bits off so that the lips will appear smooth and soft. Then you will want to apply a moisturizing lip treatment to your lips so that by the time you are finished the rest of your makeup, the moisturizer will be absorbed.

Whether you choose to apply lip gloss, lipstick or a basic lip balm, your color and texture options are almost endless. Determine what color and effect you want and take the following steps to create your kissable lips.

I personally am a straight up gloss girl, but there are many people who feel like gloss is too sticky, does not last or that it often bleeds outside the lip area. If you feel this way but are willing to try gloss again, find a gloss that has the consistency of a jelly rather than a tacky serum and use slightly less on the lips. Tap the color onto your lips with the wand or your finger and leave it as is.

Allow the gloss to naturally settle on its own without pressing your lips together to move the color around. You can apply a lip liner first in a color that matches your own lips to help keep the gloss in place. Focus the main application of the gloss to the middle area of your lips rather than lining them the same way that you would with a lipstick.

If lipstick is your best friend, the trick to long lasting wear is layers. If you want to apply a bold color but your natural lip color distorts it, I would highly recommend going over the lips with a touch of foundation or concealer to blank out the color before you even begin. Dust them lightly with a fine powder to help set the base. This will create a neutral, colorless starting point that allows you complete freedom to create the true color you want.

Start by applying a lip liner in a color that matches your lipstick. Line the entire lip with this color and blend it from the outside of the lip to the middle area. Go over your liner with the lipstick color, either applying it from the tube or using a lip brush for more precise application. Take a tissue and gently blot any excess color from your lips before applying a second coat of lipstick color.

If you want to create the illusion of a full upper lip, take a highlight cream or eye shadow color and apply just a touch of it to the peak of your lips, slightly above the actual lip line. And if a full lower lip is what you are after, add a touch of gloss or a lipstick color slightly lighter than what you are wearing to

the top middle area of the bottom lip. This variation of texture and color reflects off the light to project full, supple lips.

If you don't like the feel or look of gloss or lipstick, you can easily add color to your lips using a lip pencil in a shade you like and a basic lip balm. There are many lip liners that have the creamy texture of a lipstick so they glide on easily and blend smoothly but don't make you feel like you are coated in product. Just be sure to fill in the entire lip with this liner or you run a very high risk of looking like a woman who forgot to apply her lipstick or worse, a woman who is still stuck in the 80's.

With these easy tips, you can be sure that your lip color will not fade before the party ends, even if you do.

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