

Bright Skin for Spring

According to the calendar, spring is here. According to me, spring is not. That's not to say that the stores aren't bursting with summery clothes and makeup collections. It's just to say that I can't wait for it to heat up so I can quit wearing my socks and sweaters and switch to sandals and tinted moisturizer!

So it's not that nice outside. The flowers still managed to bloom, and with them comes a bundle of inspiration for our faces. In fact, there's inspiration all around. The upcoming trends for spring and summer lean strongly to old favorites that bring us back to our teenage years, time spent near the beach with friends and family, and bring an earthy feel to old classics.

As soon as the weather warms up, a barrage of bronzing products hits the market. We are reminded of how great we all look with color on our faces, and giving an extra hint of glow is an excellent way to brighten the skin and look fresh and youthful. Bronzers come in powder, crème and liquid forms and no one type is better than the other. It's a personal preference and products should be chosen for your own skin type and makeup routine.

If your skin tends to be dry, a great way to add a little color without worrying about being orange or golden is take a liquid bronzer in a golden color and add just a drop of it to your liquid foundation. Mix together and apply as normal, preferably with a foundation brush. It will create the most flawless finish and will help to make your product go a long way!

Anyone can use powder bronzer. After your foundation and powder, apply bronzer to the areas of the face that the sun would naturally "kiss" it. This refers to the high points of the face, like the nose, forehead, chin and cheekbones. Look for a bronzer that is not matte, but not overly glittery either. You want it to have a nice reflective sheen without being metallic or disco club.

If you want to define your cheekbones, a bronzer can easily double to create a subtle, contoured effect. Use the bronzer under your cheekbones and blend your pink or peachy blush onto the cheeks starting at the outside of the apples and blending up towards the temples. Blend these two colors gently so that there are no visible lines or streaks.

A great way to switch from fall and winter makeup colors is to replace your plum, brown or burgundy blush with a slightly pink or raspberry color. Apply your blush with control and softness by picking up color on only one side of your fluffy brush. Dot that color on the apple of each of your cheeks before flipping the brush over and blending that bit of color with the side of the brush that has no product on it. If you feel that you've gone overboard, you can gently buff away excess blush with a sponge or apply a light dusting of powder on top.

Colors for the eyes are drastically leaning towards pastels and focus on shades of the ocean. Aqua is prominent everywhere you look, as are pinky shades and sandy touches of bronze. While pastels are soft and feminine, they can instantly make anyone over 18 look like they are trying to relive their teenage years. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having a fresh, young looking face, but it's important to realize that mint, lavender and powder blue are best used in limited quantities.

If you are anywhere under the 30 year old age group, use a light touch to apply any of the bold summer colors on your eyelids and keep the color on the eyelid beneath the crease. Blend a touch of this same color on your lower lashes to make a soft and smudgy effect. To create a beautiful contrast between your lids and lashes, use a dark and bold eyeliner color in jet black, deep navy or gunmetal grey. Several coats of mascara will complete your look and will add a hint of sorbet sweetness against a full and luscious lash line.

One of the current trends circulating the beauty scene is all about minerals. Mineral makeup, that is. Mineral makeup products are created from naturally crushed minerals and do not usually have added fragrances, chemicals or oils. They are hypo-allergenic and can even have beneficial effects for the skin. Not only that, they give a beautiful and radiant glow. Mineral powders, blushes and eye shadows are definitely worth trying, whether your skin is troublesome or not. They are silky soft and look as good as they feel on your face.

Now that you know what you need to bring your beauty routine into summer mode, you can sit back on the couch with your slippers and hot cup of tea and stare longingly out the window, wishing for sun. You won't be the only one.