

Makeup Tools You Can't Do Without!

What do gardening, mechanics and applying makeup have in common? "Is this a trick question?" you ask. Sort of. Each of these things requires something to make it effective. They are common to all three and many others jobs as well. Tools is the answer!

How can a mechanic fix a car with one wrench, a gardener tend to a garden with only one trowel or a woman apply her makeup with just one sponge applicator? Not very well! Tools are essential and important in creating the desired end result and will make an extraordinary difference in the way you do your makeup.

The way that brushes are made, the way they pick up the product and the way they feel on your face is a night and day difference that so few women take into consideration. Your tools make your makeup look better and last longer, without a doubt. While investing in these tools may seem steep at first, if you take care of your tools as well as consider the per application use, they will be more than worth the price you paid for them.

So what are must-have's and what brushes are great, but not mandatory? First and foremost, a foundation brush will be a wonder I 'preach' about until the day I stop doing makeup. It is, in my opinion, THE most important brush to have. Applying your liquid foundation with a brush will make it go on flawlessly, will reduce the amount of makeup you are using and will allow you to be in control of how much makeup you are applying so that you avoid a heavy or 'cakey' appearance.

Foundation brushes are generally made with nylon or synthetic bristles and are intended to be used with cream or liquid products. They are best used by applying product in the direction of the tiny hairs on our face, in a downward and outward motion from top to bottom. It can quickly blend the product onto the face and most of all, is easy to use with very little practice. Not only is this brush great for foundation, but you can apply other cream products such as concealer, cream blush or even cream eye shadow.

Another very important tool is what I will call a fluffy brush. This type of brush is, you guessed it, fluffy! Find one that is medium to large sized with a generally round shape. This will be your go-to, use everywhere brush that you can't part with. Use your fluffy brush, usually made from real animal hair, to apply your blush, bronzer and powder. While having a separate brush for each different product is handy, if one brush is all you buy, you can get away with using this multi-tasking tool for them all!

No matter what some people say, sponge tip applicators that come in eye shadow compacts are generally terrible. They're tiny and hard to hold and while it's better than nothing, these itty bitty sponges don't blend your eye color very nicely and certainly don't allow you to create much distinction between the different colors you might be applying. Jungle mud doesn't really count as a color.

Find an eye shadow brush that is not too big and not too small, as Goldilocks would say. Make sure it's just right. This is one area that you can easily add multiple brushes to create different effects. Tapered brushes, angle brushes, fluffy brushes, stiff flat brushes and more!! If you have only one good quality brush, use one side to apply your highlight color and the other side to apply your contour color. Expand your collection as your wallet allows!

The last essential brush, according to me, is a thin angle brush. This will serve you as an eyebrow color applicator, eyeliner blender (for kohl pencils) and eyeliner applicator (for liquid, gel and cake liners). The flatness of the brush helps you get close to the lashline to create definition and thickness. The angle allows you to create a beautiful swoop on the end, which draws the eye shape up and gives you an open, bright appearance.

Once you have got these four basics - foundation, fluffy, medium eye shadow and small angle brush - look to expand your collection by adding a precise concealer brush, several eye shadow brushes in small to large sizes, a tapered blush brush, and a lip brush too! Then we're talking tools like the men do!

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