

Q&A

Beauty woes? Our panel of experts are here to help

Hair and beauty

Meet the experts



Jane Mather
Make-up artist and
image consultant



Susie Boylan
Make-up artist



Toni Todd
Hair stylist and
make-up artist

SMOOTH OPERATOR

Q I have dry patches on my face and am worried that my bridal make-up will look patchy as a result. Is there anything I can do to achieve a smooth, photo finish?

A *Jane says:* First and foremost, you need to consider what might be causing your dry skin patches: an allergy, poor diet, a change in your cosmetics or a combination of all three? If none of these apply to you, I'd suggest you review your skincare routine. As we're all so busy nowadays, it's very tempting to use cleaning wipes to quickly remove your make-up, but please don't. These are very drying on your face and this 'quick fix' can often make problems much worse.

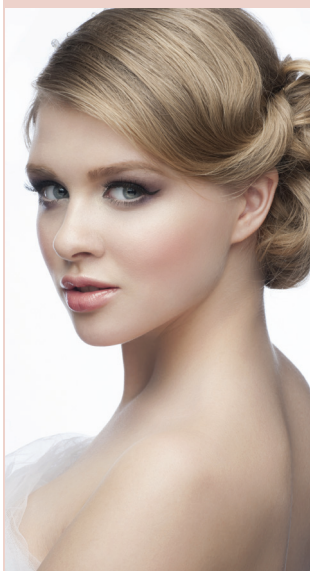
Instead, make time to cleanse, tone and moisturise every single day, using specialist products and also drink plenty of water. Then, once a week, exfoliate. A gentle exfoliator is key, as you want to avoid stripping the skin, which will cause it to become too oily. I particularly like Dermalogica's Gentle Cream Exfoliant, as it has a non-abrasive formula that will help to remove dead cells and encourage renewal, which will help you to look smoother. Finally, when it comes to applying your make-up, a good base is key for any skin type. Therefore invest in a primer to help lock-in moisture and create a smooth surface for your foundation.

Natural beauty

Q I'm getting married in a rustic barn and would like my make-up to reflect the natural styling of the day. How do I achieve effective this while still looking like I've made an effort?

A *Susie says:* I suggest you use a liquid foundation to even out your skin tone. If this looks too thick, mix it with some moisturiser. It will still provide you with the coverage you want, but you won't look like you're wearing too much product. Next, lightly dust translucent powder over your foundation to keep it in place, but focus on your T-zone, which will naturally look shiny. However, don't be tempted to over-powder as you'll lose your natural radiance.

For lovely rosy cheeks, match the colour of your blusher with the natural flush that spears on your cheeks after you've finished a brisk walk. Powder is the best option for your wedding, as it lasts longer than cream and looks more natural. To really make your eyes 'pop', I've found that brown, as opposed to black or grey, is one of the most universally flattering shades there is. Complement this with flirty lashes by curling them first to open up the eye, and then adding either a clear serum or brown mascara for maximum impact.



VA VA VOLUME

Q I have very fine, wispy hair but adore glamorous, big locks. Is there anything I can do to add volume to my tresses?

A *Toni says:* Firstly, invest in a really great cut – you won't regret it! Ladies with fine hair should steer clear of layers as they'll only make your locks look thinner and even more wispy at the ends. Instead, try a blunt cut that's all one length. I love adding volume to hair by creating waves or curls with a curling wand. The change in the structure will give the illusion that you have much more hair than you do and help create the glamorous bounce and movement that everybody wants.

There are also many products available to create bigger tresses, such as Redken's Thickening Lotion. If you use this with a medium-sized barrel brush you can add volume from the root before you add your curls. However, if you want both length as well as body, ask your stylist about hair extensions. These now come in many varieties from clip-in to semi-permanent varieties that are bonded to the hair. However, if you go to a specialist, all types will give you a natural and seamless end result.

Contact our experts

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