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Spring Fashion Trends



Spring 2012 Makeup and Nail Trends

Written by Shannon McCarthy

This season's cosmetic trends don't lean toward one single look. Instead, we've got many makeup moods from which to choose. Light-hearted flirty femmes, retro superstars, moody rockers and fresh-faced outdoorsy girls are all part of this spring's beauty bonanza.

Popular Brands



Eyes and Brows: Sight Lines

Last fall's fave, the smoky eye, continues into spring with a few tweaks. Smudged peepers get cooler with a change in hue: blue, to be exact. Navy replaces black and brown, but you'll still want to keep it bold. Not crazy for the punk vibe? Try a just-as-trendy metallic eye at night via a sweep of creamy silver-white shadow on the lid or brow bone, or go chic in the daytime with a soft wash of pastel in so-now **lilac**, turquoise or coral. **Eyeliners** are drawn super-fine to accent shimmery metallic shadows, or thick and winged for exotic flair. (Inspiration for this modified cat's-eye? Screen goddesses Liz Taylor and Sophia Loren.)

Faux is a go for lashes this spring, but we're looking for less mass effect and more strand definition, a la a doll's eyelashes. (Approximate this feathery look sans falsies with a high-quality lash curler and **lengthening mascara**.) And eyebrows are anything but demure. Ditch the delicacy and frame your flashers with a strong, swept-up, darker "power brow."



Face and Cheeks: Sweet Beams

Just as eye, lip and nail trends offer both the sultry and the sweet, so goes this season's chic complexions. For spring, the well-dressed face is either just back from Barbados or it's not seen the sun in ages. Sun-kissed looks call for a well-blended application of bronzer, especially on the high cheekbone. Add swipes to the nose bridge, tip of chin and top of forehead to amp up this look: Some runway shows even had models sporting a faux **sunburn**. Slightly less St. Tropez is a sweep of golden-tinged highlighter on those same spots. Pale beauties will still want a touch of glow, so dab on peachy-pink cream blush, a bit of coral-hued powder on the apples of the cheeks, or a liquid highlighter in apricot to add a luminous, healthy glow.

Face primers give your **foundation** real staying power, and the mattifying variety is fantastic for oily or combination skin. As for your first layer, a tinted moisturizer does double-duty and tends to impart a more

natural radiance than a separate all-over face luminizer.



Bronzer



Gold highlighter



Liquid highlighter



Cream blush



Face primer



Tinted moisturizer

Lips: Miles of Smiles

You've *definitely* got something to smile about this spring. Whether you like it femme fatale, '60s pop-art punchy or just barely there, lip-look trends are ready to mouth off. First up are the retro reds: These classic shades are just as saturated as those from last fall, but now ease toward an orangey hue and away from blue-reds. Glossy true reds and delicious dark chocolates are still hot, as are the fresh punch of brights. Try a hip lip in electric coral or Twigggy-era pink. (Keep your eyes somewhat bare when you're wearing a deep or bold color or you'll risk cosmetic overload.)

How to best complement that nighttime smoky eye? Go the neutral route. Some of the trendiest lips are barely dressed this spring: Beige tones can be matte or glossy, and many of the newest nude lipsticks have a slight pink or peach undertone. If these shades fail to flatter, try a lovely rose-tinted [cream lipstick](#) or a coral lip gloss for minimalism without the washout.



Retro reds



Chocolate lipstick



Coral lipstick



Beige lipstick



Nude lipstick



Coral lip gloss

Nails: Lacquer Tracker

We've got to hand it to those creative purveyors of polish: They've managed to keep the digital revolution in play by tweaking colors and effects for spring. We expect nail hues to be lighter as the weather warms, but it ain't just pink, baby. Snappy fingers will be wearing all manner of refined pastels like pistachio green and powdery blue; muted neons like creamsicle orange; vintage reds; and even a super-springy daffodil yellow. Or you can easily skip the color party and do neutral: Nails that match your skin tone are so in this season. (A step beyond flesh tones are hip minimalist hues like opaque white and gentle gray.)

Of course, there's always a place for 10 perfect red nails. This spring, the right rouge can be a cheery cherry or vintage burgundy, depending on your mani mood. Nail art is still a growing trend, so indulge in some glimmer top coats, girls-night-out [appliques](#), or the uber-cool 3-D hologram effects made with magnetic nail polish.



Pistachio green



Blue



Neon



Gray



Glimmer top coat



Magnetic nail polish