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## Bridal Beauty

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Every bride wants to be at her most beautiful on her wedding day, but there's no magic to looking magical. It simply takes knowing what's best in long-wearing makeup, sensible skin care and truly effective hair care products. Read on for our "big day" beauty roundup.



### Makeup: Living Color

The ideal bridal makeup strikes a balance between polished and pretty, a luminous effect that calls attention to your best features and *not* the cosmetics themselves. Start with concealer one or two shades lighter than your skin tone to hide under-eye shadows, discoloration at the inner corners of eyes and redness around the nose. Use makeup sponges to *blend* a light layer of foundation thoroughly. If your skin is oily, try a tinted moisturizer for a lighter effect. A mattifying primer is great for any skin type as it creates a clean canvas for color. Stick with matte powder eye shadows in soft, earthy colors—anything creamy may melt, and any hue too bright, sparkly or dramatic could appear clownish in photos.

Waterproof mascara and liquid eyeliner (or liner sealer for pencils) are a must, even if the nuptials are indoors and at night—you'll likely need that staying power through emotional moments. Cheek stains are the closest thing to water-resistant blush there is—layer a matching powder color on top to soften the look. Match lip liners to your natural lip color, fill in lips completely, then top with a matte lipstick and dot clear gloss at the center of the bottom lip for the perfect amount of kissable shine. There are even sealants for lipstick, so use one if your color fades easily. Brow gel is always a good bet, as is a light dusting of translucent setting powder.



### Skin Care: Saving Face

All brides are by definition beautiful, but when you want to project an extra radiance, start with the basics. Of course cosmetics are important, but the canvas you paint on should be as clean as possible. Be extra vigilant with your skin care routine in the months before the wedding (hint: going to bed without washing off makeup is *not* an option). This should include gentle cleansing, exfoliation, moisturizing, and application of your favorite sunscreen during the day. Step up the pampering masks to once a week—clay-based if your complexion is oily, or a deeply hydrating version if you tend toward dry skin. Keep lips in kissable condition with a specialized exfoliating product, followed by a nurturing lip balm full of Vitamin E or other combos of humectants and sunscreen.

If you like the savings and convenience of at-home facial peels then by all means indulge, but don't do

anything major within ten days of your wedding date in case of a bad reaction. Banish under-eye bags on the big day with de-puffer packs and consider a dedicated mattifying anti-shine product if your face tends to turn slick. (Carry your favorite blotting papers along to the ceremony for touch-ups, too.) And what of the dreaded badly-timed breakout? Apply an over-the-counter antibiotic cream, not a super-drying benzoyl peroxide product that may cause redness. Then layer a small amount of pimple-healing concealer atop the spot—a super-thin makeup brush does the job precisely.



Exfoliants



Sunscreen



Lip exfoliation



Lip balm



Facial peels



Anti-shine skin treatment

## Hair Care: Coif Medicine

Whether you choose to wear your hair in a full or partial up-do, or down and flowing, you want it to look as perfect as possible. Tame the frizz, or add body and bounce, with the right targeted treatments. Here's a tip: don't pile on the product. A few fly-aways look better than a helmet-head. Even if your 'do appears fine at the start of the festivities, *too* much mousse, gel or serum will leave it flat long before last call at the open bar. Start the coif care with a clarifying shampoo if your hair is oily, or a deep conditioning treatment (ideally once a week for a month before the wedding) if your tresses tend toward dry. "Pre-heat" styling sprays and serums protect your hair from the damage of blow-outs and flat irons, while just a smidgen of volumizer at the roots before blow-drying provides lots of lift.

Try a misting of shine spray or swipe of gel to vanquish frizz on normal-to-oily hair, or a weightier lotion or cream to smooth split-ends on normal-to-dry hair. If your color needs a hit of intensity, grab a box of color glaze for a shine lift. And consider taking your favorite styling products along to the ceremony in trial or travel sizes for touch-ups before the vows. We especially recommend a little dry shampoo to refresh your hairdo just before your grand entrance at the reception.



Clarifying shampoo



Deep conditioning treatment



"Pre-heat" styling sprays



Volumizer



Shine spray



Dry shampoo