

BEAUTY MUSE *bridal*

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Trial

Your makeup trial is your chance to find the look you adore, which will be immortalized in your wedding photographs, so it's important to know how to get the most out of the experience and what to expect.

Don't forget to have fun. A marriage is a joyous occasion, and I believe that the preparations should be too!

What to Expect

- Your makeup artist should give you advice on what styles suit you best. They might suggest looks that you hadn't considered before. You shouldn't feel pressured to follow all of their advice, but while you have their expertise at your fingertips, try to give it your consideration.
- You will get the best outcome if you let your artist know at the very beginning what looks you like (and dislike). That way, they won't waste your time going down the wrong track.
- Your artist should listen carefully to your ideas and opinions, and respect your vision.
- Don't be too disappointed if you feel that your look isn't totally picture perfect. The goal of the trial is to discuss options and arrive at the basic concept of your wedding-day look. It will never be as perfect as the wedding day, but it should give you a good idea of what the actual result will be.
- Makeup and skin interact with each other in a way that even the most experienced artists cannot always predict, so after the trial, you will need to "live" in the makeup for a bit. If it wears off too quickly, or after wearing it for a while you change your mind about the look, then be sure to tell your stylist. It's normal for a look to be tweaked a bit based on trial results.

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What to Bring Along

The more clues you can give your make up artist about the look and feel of your wedding, the quicker they will find the right makeup style to suit you. Here are the four things that I love brides to bring in:

- 1. A picture of your dress:** This helps your artist create a look that will compliment your dress. Have a friend take a photo of you at a fitting. Or bring a photo or sketch of the style of dress you visualize yourself walking down the aisle in.
- 2. A swatch of fabric:** This is especially helpful if you have chosen a gown with a unique color or texture.
- 3. Pictures of your ideal makeup and hair looks.** Bringing pictures that show your personal style will help your artist understand you and come up with the right look.

A picture can head off the confusion that often results when different people try to describe colors—for instance, “coral” eye shadow might mean light pink to one person but a vibrant red to another.

Choose pictures that can be adapted to suit your own natural assets—if you’re fair skinned and blonde, then Scarlet Johansson might be a better goal than Jennifer Lopez.

- 4. Something dressy.** If you come along to your trial in your sweats or your work clothes, it will be harder for you to judge how your makeup will look on your wedding day. I recommend that brides wear something dressy to the trial, preferably white or off-white.

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The Day of the Trial

In my years of helping brides prepare for their wedding day I have come to discover some basic truths that could help you get the best result from your trial.

Try to be on time. If you make it to your trial with plenty of time to spare, then you will be feeling calm and not pressured to rush through this important step.

Your opinion is what matters the most. It's natural to want to get the opinion of your mom or maid of honor, but at the trial they may overpower your ability to communicate with your make up artist and listen to your own instincts. Rather than bringing them along, make a plan to go out afterwards, so you can get their opinion then.

Be open to new approaches. Your make up artist may suggest you head in a different direction to what you had planned. The trial gives you the chance to live with a look and discover whether you feel comfortable with it.

Your artist wants to get to know you. Please don't feel overwhelmed if I have a lot of questions to ask you. I need to find out more about how you like to wear your hair and makeup. Yes, I am the expert—but this is *your* day. I want you to look like the best version of *you*.

Speak up. If you don't like something, speak up! Good stylists will not be offended. Try to be as specific as possible—is it the blush; is it the colors we chose? This will help me pinpoint the problem and correct it.

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Skin Care

The goal of the trial is to decide on your wedding-day look, and having well prepared skin—just as it will be on your wedding day—is the best way to get an accurate idea of whether the makeup is working for you. So here are some tried and true tips to ensuring your skin is ready.

Have a facial: Scheduling a facial a week before your trial is a great way to prepare, but avoid a skin peel or any other kind of treatment that may temporarily irritate your skin.

Exfoliate: The night before your trial, mildly exfoliate your skin. This is an important step, as makeup works best and lasts longest on a fresh face that is free of the outer layer of dead skin cells.

Look after your lips: If you have chapped lips, for a few days before your trial, every night before you go to bed use the bristles of a clean toothbrush to lightly exfoliate them. Then apply a heavy lip balm, or Aquaphor ointment, before you go to sleep.

Tanning: If you are going to be tan at your wedding, try to get the same tan for your trial, so you'll have a more accurate idea of what your makeup will look like on your wedding day.

On the day: It is best to arrive at your trial with no makeup on, or light makeup. While sunscreen is important on normal days, avoid wearing it on the day of your trial (and on your wedding day), as it can make foundation appear white, especially in pictures.