

Big day beauty

If there's one day you want to totally and absolutely look your best, it's your wedding day. Sophie Chaming's has some advice on choosing the right hairstylist and make-up artist and tips to achieve a professional look if you're planning to do it yourself.

As a bride, you want to look beautiful, not just for your wedding day but also for the photographs which will be around forever. A professional make-up artist and hair stylist can make all the difference.

Experienced and knowledgeable about the right colours, the right styles and the right products, a professional make-up artist and hair stylist can make your wedding day and evening. It's well worth the spend. A good makeup artist and hair stylist will be able to create 'natural' perfection that is individual to your personality, colouring and face shape.

It's also a real treat for you to be able to sit down and be pampered on the day of your wedding day.

So, how do you go about choosing a makeup artist and hair stylist for your wedding day?

Most important is a make-up artist's portfolio of work. If you like make-up and hair that she/he has done in the past, then the chances are that you will like what she/he does for you on your wedding day.

It's also a good idea to ask for a trial. It's a good idea to ask the artist to see if they are the kind of people with whom you would like to share part of your wedding day. Ask lots of questions about their experience, the products they use and ideas they may have about your hair and make-up, to ensure you are happy with what they will do before you spend money on your trials. It's also a good idea to ask for a trial on the day before your wedding. On your special day as the last thing you want is to be rushing around before your wedding!

Looking good

Skin preparation

Make sure your skin is in the best condition for your wedding day.

Use a good quality moisturiser. This way, you will need to use less foundation and any that you do will look smoother and more natural.

Visit a professional if necessary to ensure you are using the right products for your skin. Pre-wedding facials are a great way to get it right.

Foundation

Use a light/high foundation on the face in the places where you concealer on areas that need extra coverage. If you have oily skin, use a matt foundation and for drier skin, use something light reflective.

Blusher

Choose a soft, pink blusher and use

on the apples of your cheeks,

blending it gently upwards along the cheekbones. If you're unsure use the shade closest to your skin. This way, you will need to use less foundation and any that you do will soon become prominent.

Apply very lightly to start with and build up the colour if you need it.

Bronzer

A bronzer will give you an effortless but beautiful summer glow.

Avoid shimmer and avoid orange but otherwise apply lightly all over the face in the places where you concealer on areas that need extra coverage. Don't apply too much on your nose and dust it down your neck to make sure the colour is evenly spread.

Eyes

Choose soft, subtle shades and >

< make sure you blend them well! Apply a lighter one all over the face and a darker one on the outer part of the eyelid, blending it well into the socket line.

Draw a pencil eyeliner on the lower eyelid, as far as possible and smudge with a cotton bud afterwards to give a soft, subtle look.

Use a white eyeliner inside the lower eyelid, looking into the mirror and looking with a black/brown/maty waterproof mascara and apply two or three coats.

Lips

Draw a neutral coloured lipstick over your lips, then apply the top gloss of your choice. Keep it soft – peach, pink or clear are recommended.

In the bag

Ensure you take with you your face powder, your lipstick, your eye shadow, your concealer, your mascara, your hair clips, your hairbrush and your hair ties so you can keep your make-up perfect throughout the day.

Hair

For naturally beautiful hair, apply some styling mousse and use heated rollers to set your hair.

As you take the rollers out, use hairspray on each individual curl, shake your head forwards and work the hair through the rollers. Hair looks more natural volume.

Finish with a couple of beautiful hair clips placed on the side of the head, pinning one side of your hair up and away from your face.

MAKE-UP artist and skincare specialist Sophie Chaming (l) works extensively in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire as well as alongside media and fashion photographers and hairdressers, air directors and stylists from across the UK.

"On the make-up side, I work with brides helping them to look and feel naturally beautiful."

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workshops. "Integral to everything I do is beautiful skin and flawless make-up as it is proven to be true that if we look good, we feel good," she says. "On the skincare side, I use natural and organic beauty products the way forwards."

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