



Need help with your foundation? Want to try out a new make-up trend? Celebrity make-up artist Rachel Wood is here to help

Good foundations

Make-up can be compared to art in lots of ways, but importantly, both need a good canvas to get the best result. If you want to get a good base for your face, just follow my simple guide for skin that always looks its best.

1 It's vital to have a clean face before you get started, so make sure you remove any trace of last night's cosmetics. **Decléor Aroma Cleanse Hydra-Radiance Smoothing & Cleansing Mousse** is great at removing the remnants of any left-over products. After gently drying, add a moisturiser suited to your skin type. If your skin is dry go for a rich cream moisturiser; try a lighter milk or gel for oily skin.

2 For long-lasting foundation, apply a primer. **Laura Mercier's Foundation Primer** and **Make-up Forever's HD Microperfecting Primer** are both great products for keeping your base looking its best. If you want to give your skin tone a lift or glow, **Benefit's Girl Meets Pearl** will give you glowing holiday skin and a golden shimmer.

3 Now you're ready to apply the foundation. Your fingers are great for a liquid foundation, but a cosmetic sponge will help to make sure it is blended along the hair and jawline. For moderate to full coverage, use a flat foundation brush, applying the make-up with up and down strokes like you're painting a wall, before blending at the edges. A spiked or buffer-type foundation brush is perfect if you have an iridescent or illuminating foundation because it buffs the particles, helping to achieve a glow. Use this brush in upwards, circular motions for a polished result. Smaller powder brushes are best for mineral and powder foundations. Brushes from **Real Techniques by Samantha Chapman** are affordable and there are online video tutorials to help you get the right technique.

Keep it clean: For great results remove all traces of make-up

Expert finish: The right tools will result in the perfect finish

Get glowing: Pick a brightening primer for holiday skin

Brush up: Good-quality brushes make all the difference

CHOOSING A FOUNDATION

There are so many colours, brands and textures, finding the right one can be confusing! Before you even start looking, ask yourself these questions to narrow down the right choice.

1 What's my skin type? If your skin is oily, stick to powder-based formulas, liquid matte finishes and oil-free formulations. On the other hand, if your skin is dry, moisturising bases, creams and illuminating foundations like **Giorgio Armani's Luminous Silk Foundation** are better for you. Mineral make-up is good for sensitive skin and **Bare Escentuals** stock a wide range.

2 What kind of coverage do I want? If you have clear skin and want to even out the tone, choose a sheer finish, like **Shiseido Perfect Refining Foundation**, or **BECCA's tinted moisturisers**. **Bobbi Brown's Foundation Sticks** are perfect if you have larger areas that need coverage, or blemishes that are difficult to hide with concealer. If you are between skin types, a medium/moderate-coverage foundation is best. Alternatively choose a product that can be layered for heavier coverage on specific areas.



Cover up:
Picking the right level of cover is vital

Hit the shops

The key is to try before you buy, applying foundation to your jawline, not your hand. If it glows or looks grey, it's too light; if it looks orange it's definitely too dark; if it sinks into the skin and looks natural, then it's just right.

Shop lighting can be deceiving and it is hard to tell whether the colour is right. I suggest trying on the product and then going outside to check what your skin looks like in daylight.



STICK IT ON

I always loved the scene in *The Fifth Element* when Milla Jovovich's character puts on an eye mask, says "make-up" and then has instant eyes! Well, we're not that advanced, but for those of you in need of a little help check out **Soap and Glory's Arch de Triumph** – it's a duo pencil eyebrow kit with eyebrow-shaped stencils on the back of the box for you to use as a guide to get a great shape for you.



BRIGHT ON TREND

Colour blocking was one of last year's top clothing trends and it looks set to continue in 2012, bringing bright and bold colours together. For example, a vibrant orange top could be matched with pink trousers, as seen on Sarah Jessica Parker in 2011.

However, if your wardrobe is more subdued, colour blocking is a great way to brighten up your make-up.

Before you get started, choose two areas that you want to colour block. Eyes and lips are a good combination. Pair bright purple eyeliner, like **Urban Decay 24/7 Shadow Pencil in Delinquent**, with orange lips. **MAC lipsticks in Vegas Volt and Morange** will be popular shades this year.

If you're not that daring, go for a subtle combination, like a fresh tangerine blush paired with a vibrant yellow nail polish. **NARS' Gina blush** works really well with **Leighton Denny's Brick Road**, for example.

Remember, there are two rules to keep this trend looking stylish not garish. The first is to make sure that the make-up is matte and opaque. The second is that everything else on the face needs to be minimal and natural.



On trend: Urban Decay in Delinquent is perfect with bright lipstick