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Has Your Makeup Expired?



by Marie Claire, on Tue Feb 17, 2009 10:46am PST

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What's Lurking in Your Makeup Bag? Chances are you're slathering on expired products.



Jeff Harris

"Like food, makeup has an expiration date, and over time cosmetics can harbor harmful bacteria that can lead to infections," states Dr. David Schlessinger, a board-certified oculoplastic surgeon and ophthalmologist, and Medical Director of Schlessinger Eye & Face. "The risks are multiplied when these products are shared among friends."

Check out the dates below and [find out when you should toss your makeup stash.](#)

Expiration Dates - beginning from the time you first open these products

- Powders and shadows: 2 years
- Cream Shadows: 12-18 months
- Foundation: 1 year
- Lipstick & Lipliner: 1 year
- Mascara & Eyeliners: 3 months
- Makeup Brushes: Clean Weekly using a mild detergent
- Makeup Sponges: Replace Weekly, or when sponge becomes soiled

Tips for keeping your skin clean and your makeup fresh

- Smell your cosmetics; if they have an unusual odor, they may contain bacteria and should be discarded.
- **Always make sure that products are closed tight and stored out of sunlight, as this can destroy the preservatives.**
- Don't use any eye products if you currently have an eye infection.
- Never add any liquids to products unless directed by the manufacturer.
- If there are any changes in color and texture, dispose of the product immediately.
- Avoid sampling makeup at department stores when possible. If you do test, never apply directly from the makeup. Instead, use a clean, disposable applicator (i.e. cotton swab, sponge) to apply cosmetics.

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