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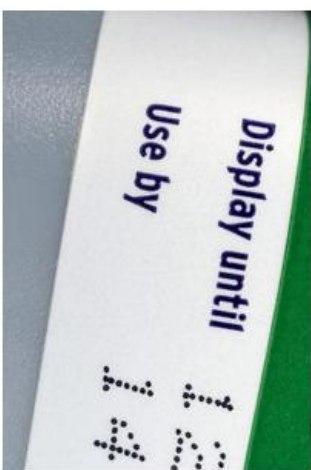
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## BEAUTY Counter blog

THE DOCTOR IS IN

### The Shelf Life Of Your Cosmetics, Debunked

February 9, 2009 6:16 pm



Ever wonder if it's time to retire that eye shadow quad from college—or if that under-eye concealer pen that leaks water with every click is still good? Since expiration dates are not mandatory (and thus not included) on most cosmetics' packaging, it's often hard to tell when you should overhaul your makeup collection. But an interesting list of statistics crossed our desk this afternoon courtesy of New York-based ophthalmologist Dr. David Schlessinger, which should help shed some light on what can stay and what probably should've been thrown away a few years ago:

- Powders and shadows: Two years
- Cream shadows: 12-18 months
- Foundation: One year
- Lipstick/lipliner: One year
- Mascara/eyeliner: Three months
- Makeup brushes: Clean weekly using a mild detergent
- Makeup sponges: Replace weekly, or when sponge becomes completely covered

Photo: David Gould/Getty Images

tags: Dr. David Schlessinger, Makeup

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