The Importance of Cleaning Makeup Brushes

We use them every day, they’re necessary to complete and polish our look, but many of us very rarely take good care of them. Venture over to your make up right now and take a look at your blush brush or your eye shadow applicator. Do you see any make up still dusted on the brushes? Maybe the makeup is even slightly caked onto the brush, a clear sign that it has been a long while (or... perhaps never) since you have taken up the task of cleaning your make up brushes.

Why should I bother cleaning my makeup brushes?

Cleaning your makeup brushes will ensure two things: that they will last longer, and that they will keep your face cleaner. Well maintained makeup brushes can last anywhere from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the quality of the brushes. Cleaning them regularly will keep the bristles fresh and prevent them from drying out, caking together, or just plain falling apart.

Keeping the brushes clean helps prevent the growth of bacteria. Bacteria is often what causes clogged pores and break outs, so if you find yourself suddenly suffering from an increase of pimples or acne, take a good hard look at your make up brushes and see if they perhaps need a bit of a cleaning.

Should I use a store-bought makeup brush cleaner?

You certainly can use one of the specially formulated makeup brush cleaners that are for sale in the stores. These usually do contain some sort of alcohol agent (usually isopropyl alcohol) which is meant to speed up the brush drying process. Unfortunately, as a result of this, the alcohol usually also dries up the bristles or hairs of the makeup brushes you use and strips the brushes of their softness. This will speed up the aging of your brushes and make it necessary for you to replace them more frequently.
Can I clean my makeup brushes some other way?

Yes! One of the simplest ways for you to clean your makeup brushes is to apply a shampoo or a facial cleanser to the brushes, lather them up, and then rinse them off in tepid water. That will remove the vast majority of the residue.

Another great way to clean off the brushes is to use pure Tea Tree oil. Tea Tree oil is a natural antibacterial agent, so you’ll know that your brushes are as clean as they’ll ever be. Add 15 drops of Tea Tree oil to 1 ounce of cleanser (this can be a facial cleanser or any sort of bodily soap) and give the bottle a shake. Next, wet down your brushes so that they are damp and then apply a drop of the Tea Tree oil cleanser to the brushes. Swish the brush around to make lather and then rinse the brushes out. Squeeze out any extra moisture and lay them out on a paper towel to dry them.