



Module 5 : Tools Used by a Makeup Artist

- Tools that makeup artists use
- How to identify a good brush
- How to care for your brushes
- How to choose the right ones for various applications

What you will learn:

- The tools that makeup artists use
- How to identify a good brush
- How to care for your brushes
- How to choose the right tools for various applications
- Your makeup bag tool checklist

5.1 Introduction

 **It is really hard to apply makeup properly without the right tools.** In this module we will cover which tools you need to take care of the various services for your client. We will give you an idea of how you can use these tools to make things easier. Furthermore, we will give you information about why you should choose various products and how to sort through the many choices out there to find the ones that are going to give the best results.

Over time you will find that you favor some tools more than others; this is down to personal preference.

It is advised to have that one tool that can complete the job with ease. Always ensure you have a

back-up in your bag, as when rushing between clients, it is so easy to accidentally leave a tool behind that you need for your next appointment.

Guide to the Tools of the Trade - 16 minutes 06 seconds

5.2 Identifying a Good Brush

 **A good brush for the application of blush, powder or eye shadow is made of real hair.**

Brushes made of synthetic materials work best for lips, foundations, and concealers; however, you will find that these synthetic brushes are not good for makeup in the powder format. The bristles of these synthetic brushes will not be able to hold the makeup and they could cause your makeup to be blotchy and inconsistent. It is difficult to contour, blend, or smudge with synthetic brushes. The tips of real hair brushes are uncut and that makes them hold the powder better. Look for a handmade brush, which will be really effective for applying makeup in the powder format. These handmade brushes feel great on the skin and have the best results overall.

A good quality brush is guaranteed to provide you with the best results and it is worth spending the extra money to invest in your career and future from the start.

Don't take shortcuts as you are not going to achieve the results you want in the long run.

5.3 Types of Makeup Brushes

Foundation Brush

For a finish that is seamless, apply the foundation to the center of the face. Then sweep it out towards the hairline. It can be used to smooth out cream and liquid foundation to leave it streak free. Also, it can be used to pat on concealer under the eyes.

Foundation Brush



Kabuki Brush

This is a big brush and that makes it great for applying powders and bronzer softly and evenly spreading it over the face. In the shape of a three, sweep the bronzer first along the temple, down

the hairline, across the cheekbone, and then finally along the jawline. Twirl the brush in your hand and it can buff out the harsh lines.

Kabuki Brush



Powder Brush

Use the bristles to dust the face evenly. It will diffuse the loose powders to give color that is less concentrated. It won't smudge the foundation. It can also work great for blush. Sweep it along the line from the apples of the cheeks to the cheekbones.

Powder Brush



Angled Blush Brush

With the blush, twirl the bristles on apples of cheeks. Hold at an angle, then glide along the cheekbones. The bristles are slanted and that makes it perfect for this application. You can also apply a contour powder below your cheekbones in a shade that is darker than your skin tone to emphasize your contours.

Angled Blush Brush



Concealer Brush

Pat the concealer on blemishes and the circles under the eyes. The rounded edges of the brush can reach the areas around the nose and eyes. It can also be used to fix up lipstick edges that are messy.

Concealer Brush



All-over Eye Shadow Brush

In a motion like a windscreen wiper, smooth the eye shadow back and forth over the eyelid to intensify the color. It will apply it evenly. Use it to dab on some shadow under the lash line to make the eyes smokier.

All-over Eye Shadow Brush



Blending Brush

Grab the handle's tip and twirl it around in a circle motion in the crease of the eyes for a blended, soft look. It can also be used to blend a highlighter on the cheekbones, cupid's bow, or brow bones.

Blending Brush



Smudge Brush

Use a kohl liner to line the lashes and then sweep this brush lightly from side to side. It will give you a sultry, smoky look. It can also work when you want to apply an intense pigment to the outer and inner corners of the brow bone or target the areas around the eye.

Smudge Brush



Angled Eyeliner Brush

Dip this brush in shadow, gel liner, or cream. Then hold it at an angle flush with the lash line. Drag from the inner corner of the eye, all the way along the lash line. Or use it with brow powder to define or fill in brows that look sparse.

Angled Eyeliner Brush



Brow/Lash Brush/Comb

The comb is used to separate lashes that are clumpy, remove the excess mascara, and smooth brows that are messy. Use the brush to tame thick, messy brows by brushing up and out. Diffuse brow lines that have been filled in harshly. You can also use the brush to smudge the eyeliner a bit.

Lash Brush



Fan Brush

Use to brush eye shadow that has fallen under the eyes. Stroke the face with highlighter, bronzer, blush, and powder. It will create a sheer and precise application. Another great use is to create the look of no makeup by dipping the ends in the mascara and then painting it on the lashes. It works well for hiding eyelash glue by applying a gel liner.

Fan Brush



Brush Comparison

Brushes

 1. Foundation Brush 2. Kabuki Brush 3. Powder Brush 4. Angled Blush Brush 5. Concealer Brush 6. All-over Eye Shadow Brush 7. Blending Brush 8. Smudge Brush 9. Angled Eyeliner Brush 10. Lash Brush 11. Fan Brush

5.4 Caring for Brushes

 **It is important to wash all of your brushes with regular soap and water.** It will remove the oil, makeup, and waxes from the brushes. Most of the time, you can wash them at the end of the night and then they will be dry by morning, so that they can be used again. There are professional cleaners for brushes. You can spray your brushes with them before each use to disinfect them, sanitize them, deodorize them, and condition them.

If you don't wash them every night, you should at least wipe them down and then wash them a few times each week.

You should not let your brushes go more than a week without washing them.

A simple spray of a cleaner and a good wipe down after each use is a good habit to get into. If you care for your brushes, and especially if you purchase ones with real hair, you should be able to keep the same brushes for decades.

Guide to caring for your equipment - 5 minutes 55 seconds

In this guide Olivia talks about the importance of cleaning and maintaining your equipment

We will go in to further detail on makeup brushes in the next module

5.5 Cotton Buds

 **There are so many uses for a cotton bud.** They are a must-have makeup tool. They can be used to create a "smoky eye" or to smudge eyeliner. They are also great for cleaning up mistakes that are made so that you don't have to start all over again. They are disposable and clean so, as long as you keep them in a container that does not let germs and bacteria in, they are very sanitary. Ensure that you never use the same cotton bud on different clients.

Disposable products provide you with a hygienic solution, so take advantage of this and ensure that the item is thrown away once used to reduce the risk of accidentally using it on your next client without realizing.

Cotton Buds



5.6 Blotting Paper

 **This thin paper is used to reduce shine and can be applied to the area, such as, the eyelids, lips, or skin, and it will absorb the wax and oil and reduce shine.** Wrap a single sheet of blotting paper over your beauty blender sponge. Then roll it on the skin. It will get into the small crevices in the face and get rid of a little bit of the oil. It will leave the sheen and is great to use instead of fingers that can deposit bacteria or oil into the skin.

Blotting Paper



5.7 Tweezers

✖ **These are an essential tool for any makeup artist.** You can even clean them with the same cleaner as your brushes. Just spray them and wipe them down after each use. They are perfect for plucking the few stray hairs that would otherwise spoil your look. You can also use them to pluck any chin hairs or upper lip hairs, to perfect your masterpiece.

Tweezers



5.8 Sponges

✖ **Sponges are great for giving your foundation a natural look once you tap it in.** You can use a triangle sponge to apply the foundation to the inner corners of your eyes. They can be thrown away after use to ensure that you don't spread bacteria or viruses. They will not be able to get washed with soap and water, so be sure to buy in bulk and save.

Beauty Blender

For a sheer and even cover, dampen, and dab on foundation. The broad side of the sponge can be used to smooth the product on your face. The tip of the sponge can reach into the creases that are around the client's nose or pinpoint the smaller areas. It can apply cream blush, remove extra product, or blend makeup lines that are harsh.

Cotton Powder Puff

These are great for applying a loose powder or to cover larger areas of the skin. They are rather cheap and easy to get. You should always use cotton powder puffs on sensitive skin. Therefore, if your client fills out on their consultation card that they have sensitive skin, this is a must. It is made with cotton fibers and holds the powder well.

Compact Powder Puff

A compact powder puff is great for both loose powders and pressed powders. It will leave a more matte finish and gives you better control during application. It makes it easier to apply an even coverage and ensures the makeup lasts longer.

Contouring Sponge

These sponges are great for highlighting and contouring by reaching the areas that are hard to reach. They usually come in an egg or tear shape. They can be used with bronzer and highlighters and both cream and liquid products. It will make the color of bronzer softer.

Satin Cotton Puff

These satin cotton puffs are small and give an application that is flawless. One side has a satin fabric and the other side has a puff. They are used as a replacement puff. They are inexpensive and they fit in all compacts.

Cosmetic Sponge

These come in a rectangular shape or a circular shape. They work well with powders and liquid foundations. They work with wet and dry applications. A cosmetic sponge is effective at preventing the foundation from looking caked on.

Cosmetic Wedges

These sponges do not absorb the product. The sponge is triangular so you can reach crevices and hard to reach areas. It works with liquid foundation or an illuminator. Plus, you can use with concealers used to cover dark circles. They make it easier to apply the perfect amount of makeup because they only absorb a little of it. This ensures less waste of the product as well.

5.9 Eyelash Curler

 **Clean the rubber on the eyelash curler after using and this tool will last decades.** You can use a cotton swab or square gauze and some alcohol to clean that little rubber piece to kill bacteria. You should curl the eyelashes before you apply mascara or you risk damaging the eyelashes or causing them to fall out. You can also get a corner eyelash curler that allows you to curl smaller sections for precision.

There are times when the regular eyelash curlers will not be able to get all of the lash in the area. A corner eyelash curler solves this issue.

Eyelash Curler



5.10 Tongue Suppressors

 **Stick a couple of these in your makeup bag to remove the rest of the product from the bottom of a jar so that you don't waste any.** You can also use spatulas. They can be great for mixing as well. You can also use lolly sticks for smaller bottles.

Tongue Suppressors



5.11 Makeup Bag Tool Checklist

Check Mark	Makeup Tool	Notes
	Powder puff	
	Triangle sponge	
	Cotton buds	
	Lip remover swabs with oil	Great for removing eye makeup too
	Blotting papers	Great for touch-ups
	Eye pencil sharpener	
	Corner/regular eyelash curler	Beneficial to have both
	Cleaner	
	Foundation brush	Synthetic
	Concealer brush	Synthetic
	Powder brush	
	Blush brush	
	Eye shadow brush	No. 1, 2, 3, 4
	Swirl brush	Separating and cleaning mascara
	Eyeliner brush	
	Lip brush	
	Spatula	Tongue suppressor
	Eyelash comb	

5.12 Useful Tips

- Always have a spare brush, sponge, eyelash curler or tongue suppressor, as you never know when you may accidentally leave one behind with a client.
- Ensure that you use disposable products wherever possible to reduce the risk of contamination. Always throw the disposables away when you are finished with a client.
- Wipe down your tools after every appointment. You don't have to wash them right now, but a good wipe down will reduce the mess you find in your makeup bag when you start your thorough cleaning process at home.
- Take regular inventory of your equipment. Check brushes for lost bristles and damage. This will help you identify which items need to be replaced. This ensures you always have the best equipment on hand to provide the best service to your client at all times.
- You may want to separate your tools into separate bags, making it easier to find them when with a client. Put all your brushes in one sealed bag and all your puffs in another. These can then be placed in one makeup kit bag, but at least you don't have to dig around to find what you are looking for in front of your client. This can speed up your service and help you look professional.

5.13 Personal Hygiene

Skin is makeup's canvas, which is why you need to make sure you take care of it by practicing proper personal hygiene techniques.

Here is a list of practices you should follow as a makeup artist:

- Use one-time-use applicators on clients or have enough brushes so that you can use clean ones on clients at all times
- Always wash your hands
- Check the expiry dates on products you are using. Many people forget that makeup expires, but the older a product is, the more likely it is to be carrying bacteria
- Disinfect your tools after every use to avoid the transmission of dirt from client to client
- Keep your makeup bag clean. It's easy to throw all your products into one bag and forget

about them, but this can quickly become extremely unsanitary. Rinse and dry off all the products you use before putting them back in your makeup bag; this will ensure constant cleanliness

- Have makeup wipes, baby wipes, or tissues on you at all times
- Since you will be washing your hands so often, keeping hand cream in your bag is a good idea for the end of your day, to make sure you're not drying them out with all of the soap
- Practice what you preach. You are going to be telling your clients how to practice proper skincare, so you should lead by example. Your day should end and begin by washing your face with cleansing oil or gel, then applying a toner on your skin using a cotton pad and completing your routine by putting moisturizer on your face. It is crucial that you also keep your lips moisturized with a good lip balm since lipstick can dry them out quickly

Module Summary

In this module, you learned about the makeup tools that are used by makeup artists and how they use them. This information will be helpful when you are getting your supplies together. Pick up a couple each week to enhance your collection when you are first starting off. You can see that some tools have multiple uses. This module also provided you with a useful makeup bag tool checklist to ensure you have everything you need when providing mobile appointments. You also learned about personal hygiene techniques.

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