



BEST FOR ACNE

Dermablend Fluid Corrective Foundation, £18, Vichy

"On photoshoots nine times out of 10 the make-up artist has this foundation in their kit to deal with models with blemishes. It's the foundation equivalent of a Swiss army knife: it conceals scars, spots and redness without irritating," says acting beauty editor Fiona Embleton. "I used it for the first time last year when a stressful period at work left my skin spotty and irritable. The formula liquefied on contact to avoid a suffocating mask and left my skin looking 90% flawless. It's a true saviour."



BEST FOR OILY SKIN

Air Mat Undetectable Matte Finish, £9.99, Bourjois Paris

"Until I moved to London 18 months ago, I had suffered from desperately dry skin," says *Stylist's* beauty assistant Shannon. "Then suddenly it became oily overnight. I've been wearing Bourjois' latest foundation for the past month. It's subtle, lightweight and by using silica instead of chalky powder, it mops up all the excess oil in my pores without leaving a dusty finish like other formulas I've tried. Unless my skin does another 180° on me, I'm sticking with this."



BEST FOR DRY SKIN

Maestro Fusion Makeup, £40, Giorgio Armani

"This foundation single-handedly restored my faith in the beauty industry," says *Stylist's* contributing beauty editor Loretta. "Before it arrived in 2012, I was fed up with sacrificing seamless coverage just to get a product to match my skintone. But this does everything you could wish of a foundation *and* comes in the best shade range for black skin I've ever seen. Thanks to the moisturising base, it simply glides over the skin. And it doesn't form a heavy, creamy layer on the skin. I love it."



BEST FOR VISIBLE PORES

Double Wear Stay-in-Place Makeup SPF10, £30, Estée Lauder

"We're told to adapt our foundation as our skin changes with age, but I've stayed loyal to this foundation for 10 years," says *Stylist's* associate editor (beauty) Joanna. "I want my skin to retain its porcelain-like finish. And I haven't found anything to rival how effortlessly this foundation melts into the skin nor how efficiently it takes down the size of enlarged pores. The scent deserves a mention, too: fresh baby powder for grown-ups."



Foundation masterclass

Everyone can benefit from make-up artist, Rupert Kingston's application tips, even if you wear foundation every day

Step 1: Find the right shade. Don't test foundation on your jawline. Place a tiny dot above each eyebrow, then blend. Most women have a warmer tone on their foreheads than their jawlines so this is a truer representation of your overall skintone.

Step 2: Prep skin first. Use a moisturiser that's low in oils and wait at least three minutes between finishing your skincare routine and applying foundation.

Step 3: Pick your tools. Fingers are fine if you only have a matter of minutes – use your middle finger to move the foundation around your face and your ring finger to pat it in. Flat foundation brushes (1) are great if you like a lot of coverage but round, kabuki-shaped brushes (2) and blender sponges (3) are more user-friendly because they're broad and buff foundation into the skin quickly.

Step 4: Work from your hand. Applying a dollop of foundation the size of a five-pence piece on to the back of your hand allows you to really work it into the brush or sponge. A common mistake is to just dip the tip in and take it straight to the skin – this delivers too much foundation in one spot.

Step 5: Start in the middle of your face. It's where you need most coverage. Begin with a dab of foundation in the centre of your forehead and on each cheek. Blend it out over the chin and tip of the nose but stay away from the jawline. Avoid taking foundation over the eye socket – the skin here is warmer, causing the it to slip and slide.

Step 6: Reapply during the day. Take a single piece of tissue, blot it over your face to remove excess oil then use your fingers to blend foundation into the areas that need it – the centre of your forehead, the end of your nose and your chin. It will freshen things up without caking.

