

These days most brides invest in having a hair and/or make-up trial prior to the big day. Brides like to know what they are going to look like on the day and to see if the styles they have seen in magazines suit them. Stylists like to conduct trials so that when we arrive on the day there are no surprises and we know your hair type will be suitable for the desired style.

There is no doubt that a professional Hair and make-up artist should be an essential element in your wedding day planning. There are a few things that you can do in the lead up to the big day to ensure your Hair and make-up looks perfect.

1. Do I really need a trial?

The short answer is no! However trials allow an opportunity to get to know your stylist. Your stylists can spend many hours with you on your wedding day so it's nice to have a familiar face arrive at the door when you're a bundle of nerves yourself. We have found many times that some of the desired looks the bride think she wants isn't exactly what she wants in the end it's normally a variation, better to get these things out the way before the big day. If your budget doesn't stretch to a trial, spend some time chatting or emailing your stylist to get a feel for them and to be clear about what you're looking for on the day.

2. When should I do my trial?

As a general rule trials are done around 12 weeks prior to the wedding. This allows enough time to find hair accessories or order flowers for your hair but not too long that you're likely to change your mind about the style. Trial dates are generally tentatively booked until closer to the day. You will need to be flexible with dates and times for your trial as they are worked around our event day bookings. Resist choosing a stylist based on the fact that a specific trial date can't be guaranteed. You've chosen us because we're good and therefore we're busy!

3. What do I need for the trial?

If you do decide on a trial the most important thing is to **be prepared on the day. Have pictures of styles that you like either printed out or ready to access on your PC or bookmarked in a wedding magazine.** Generally only one or two styles will be attempted at a trial so it's important to have a clear idea of what you are looking for.

4. The style you saw in a picture doesn't suit you!

Don't be surprised if the style you have been dreaming of doesn't actually suit you. Most likely it is not the stylist's ability - more so your differing colouring, face shape, hair type or specific features. Trust your stylist to adapt the style you love to suit both your hair type and face shape.

5. Speak your mind

Every stylist interpretation of a look will be slightly different. It's important to be engaged in the process. Whilst your stylist is doing your hair or makeup please let us know if you'd like it, bigger, straighter, higher, lower, darker, lighter etc etc as we go, don't wait until it's all done then tell your stylist it's not what you're after. We're all doing our best to get the image of what you want out of your head and onto it!!

6. Your hair is not going to look exactly the same on the day

Some stylists make a general attempt at the style so that you can get an idea if it will work, others will go to great lengths to get the style as close to perfect as possible. In all cases the style will be 'almost right' but will require a few tweaks on the day. In this case, don't expect your stylists to dismantle the style or start over to make minor changes.

All trials conducted by *us* will be done as close to perfect as possible. However we generally won't use as many pins or as much hair spray as we would on the big day so if the style doesn't last quite as long after your trial don't be alarmed.

7. What do I need to do?

On the day of your trial please have your hair clean and dry. Preferably washed the day before. If you need to wash it on the day make sure that it is really dry, blow dry if necessary. Dry hair ensures that curls hold longer and having to dry hair prior to getting started on your style will limit how much time your stylist has to work on the specific style you are after.

If you are having a make-up trial it is important to be as clear as possible about what you are looking for. Again have pictures on hand if you have found any. Like hair, once make-up is on it is difficult to remove products and start again. **Please have your face washed and moisturised and free of any make-up.**

If you have **sensitive skin** please make this known to your stylist upon her arrival. In most cases of sensitive skin we will request that a client's own make-up is used. Whilst our hygiene standards and products are of a high standard products react differently on people so it's safer to use products you have tried and tested.

Wedding day beauty tips

You have spent years planning it in your head, months planning the actual big day and spent thousands of dollars...and now it's time to look your best.

One universal truth about bridal make-up is that it needs to be a little heavier than you would normally wear it. Black and white photos and flash photography wash out the face and make-up needs to be heavy enough to ensure your features are clear. When you look at photographs of your wedding, you want to see your true beauty captured.

1. Drink lots of water and stay out of the sun in the lead up to the wedding.
2. If you are having a fake tan applied, ensure a light coverage on your face so your body and face match.
3. Get your last regular facial a week before the wedding. If you rarely have facials, don't get one within a month of the wedding.
4. Have your eyebrows waxed (if that's what you normally do) a few days before to avoid any puffiness or if you 'pluck' or thread do this a couple of days prior.
5. Practice a consistent cleanse and exfoliate routine in the months leading up to the day, however do not start one in the week of the wedding.
6. Cleanse on the morning of the wedding and moisturize several times. (A well moisturized face is the key to long lasting make-up).
7. Keep lips crack free and moisturized. A soft toothbrush can help to loosen dry skin on your lips and use a lip balm in the few weeks leading up to the wedding.
8. Consider investing in a long lasting lipstick. These great products ensure lipstick doesn't end up on your teeth or your new husband and generally only require one reapplication.
9. Remember to eat! Yes you want to fit into your gown, but fainting on the day is not a good look!
10. Dab, dab, dab! You will no doubt be wearing waterproof eyeliner and mascara however for a blubbing bride the best advice is to let the tears do their thing and just dab at the corner of your eye or underneath. If you don't drag your tissue your makeup will stay flawless all day!