



## Spring Cleaning for Your Beauty Drawer

Just like that gallon of milk in the fridge, our makeup and other beauty tools have an expiration date. But do you know what they are for each of your products as well as how to store and maintain your valuable beauty goods for optimal use? Note: a cluttered make-up bin filled with blue eye shadow purchased five years ago is an indication that your beauty drawers need some spring-cleaning. The experts at Mario Tricoci offer this tell-all list to help you know what to keep and what to toss.

**Eye and Lip Liner** – Those colorful sticks have a long shelf life, up to three years. But they should be sharpened on a regular basis to ensure a smooth application as well as remove any bacteria that can settle on it during use.

**Mascara** – A cozy harbor for bacteria, replace your mascara tube every three to four months (regardless of whether it's finished or not). Contrary to popular belief, there is no need to pump the mascara wand before applying it. That traps in more bacteria and can dry out the product. Instead, simply twist it slowly in a circle in the tube before opening it up to use.

**Lip Stick** – Some cosmetic experts say lipsticks are good for a year or two while others report they can be used for a period of up to three to four years. To prolong its life, pop your lipstick in the refrigerator. You will know when it has gone bad with a simple smell test. When it smells sour, it's time to get rid of it.

**Creams and Serums** – Tightly seal all jars after every use because light and high temperatures can dry out the product and eliminate its active properties. Instead of contaminating your pricey skincare with harmful bacteria every time you use your hands, employ a spatula to extract crèmes and serums from a jar. Better yet, opt for pumped products that are more sanitary.

**Make-up Brushes** – News flash: wash your makeup brushes every two to three weeks depending on use. If you can't remember the last time you washed your brushes it's time to get them into warm, soapy water ASAP. A mild detergent or baby shampoo are effective in cleaning and preserving your nicest makeup tools.

**Make-up Sponges** – Wash sponges every 10 to 14 days in warm, soapy water followed by a cool water rinse. Sponges should hit the trash pail within eight weeks of use.

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