

PAMPERED-N-PRETTY

Tips for achieving that perfect glow—from the pros.



Too much makeup can make you look overdone (read: clown face). Too little can wash you out in photos (read: ghost-like). The right balance of matte and shine is essential. To feel confident about your makeup on your wedding day, you must truly believe in your makeup artist. We spoke with Debra Macki, founder of Debra Macki cosmetics (www.debramacki.com) and artist to superstars like Rihanna, who offered up her tips for choosing an excellent makeup artist from your own backyard.

• **Experience necessary.** Make sure the makeup artist works more than a few part-time hours a week with a minimum of 3 years' experience in professional makeup that includes more than just brides.

• **Color counts.** Your artist should have training and experience in makeup for color and black and white photography.

• **Picture perfect.** Ask to see the makeup artist's professional portfolio. Inexperienced artists might do an application that you like but it might not translate well to photography.

• **In motion.** Confirm that your artist will travel to you on your wedding day.

• **Testing...** Have a consultation, including a trial run, with the artist before you sign a contract.

• **Book 'em, Dams!** Once you've decided on a makeup artist, sign a contract to secure your date. Most artists won't hold your wedding date without a signed contract and non-refundable deposit.



How I Did It!

Elyse Calvo Kelly of Brookline, MA wed Michael Kelly in her hometown of Paterson, New Jersey on September 27, 2008. Her hint on how to locate the best makeup artist is town! Ask the locals! "I found my makeup artist, Michelle LoConte, through the local New Jersey message board of the Knot.com," says Elyse. "I had originally planned on meeting quite a few makeup artists because I

don't typically use professional make up services, so I wasn't sure whose looks I'd like, but Michelle was the first makeup artist I met with and I liked her so much that I didn't feel the need to search any further."

Elyse, who urges brides to "go for a trial or consultation and only choose someone who makes you feel like your very best looking self" reports that the following led her to choose Michelle:

- She came highly recommended from other area brides.
- She was professional and organized.
- She discussed her previous experience at length.
- Her services included coming to my house the day of the wedding.
- She asked me questions, such as what my dress and hairpiece were like, the style of the wedding, what the bridesmaids would be wearing, what my usual makeup palette and routine were.
- She explained why certain looks would or would not work on me.



Bride Elyse Calvo Kelly found her makeup artist Michelle De Calvo through a message board! Her makeup by Michelle De Calvo, photos by Pajane Productions.