

How to Pick Your Base Makeup Products

A guide to pick the right base makeup products for your skin type

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Are you struggling to find yourself the right face makeup products? Are you feeling lost in Ulta or Sephora because there are hundreds of brands and tons of choices out there? Or is it just because you don't know where to even start? Don't worry! This guide will (hopefully) help you pick your perfect products!

I. Know your skin type:

Knowing your skin type is extremely important when it comes to choosing your face makeup. Based on your skin type, you may need different products. There are 5 main skin types: normal, oily, dry, combination and sensitive.



Picture by reflectionorganics.com

Each type of skin behaves in its own way. These are the brief descriptions of each skin type to help you identify yours:

- A. Normal skin:** If you have this type, you're a really lucky girl! Normal skin is often smooth, and you also shouldn't feel oily or dry at all. No blemishes, barely any pimples, ... This is the type of skin I wish I had.
- B. Dry skin:** As in the name, your skin would feel dry. Moisturizer would be your best friend and cold weather would be your worst enemy if you had this type of skin. Cause you know so well that when it gets cold, that flaky skin is going to haunt you.
- C. Oily skin:** Oily skin tends to give you that shine when you're under the sunlight. It can be cute to some extent because glowy looks are all the hype these days. But most of the time you might feel like your face is covered in Pam baking spray. And I'm not trying to make you sad but this skin also comes with large pores and pimples.
- D. Combination skin:** You're getting the best of both worlds with this one. It's the hardest skin type to work with in my opinion. I would know that, because this is the skin type I have, sadly. Because you're fighting with the dryness on your cheeks, yet you're also fighting the oiliness on your T-zone (your forehead and nose area). You might break out easily, have large pores, flaky skin, ...
- E. Sensitive skin:** This is not really a type of skin because you can be any of the 4 types above and have sensitive skin. But it is important because it'll also affect what products should you use. If you often feel stinging or burning sensations

when you try out new products, or if you get red easily, then chances are you have sensitive skin.

When you have found out what type of skin you have, then it's time for the next step, which is choosing your base makeup products!

II. Pick Your Base Makeup Products:

Base makeup products are the hardest to pick. They are the main reason why you should know your skin type before buying anything. For base makeup, I recommend 5 products: sunscreen, primer, foundation, concealer and setting powder.

A. Sunscreen:

Sunscreen is a must even when you're not wearing makeup. UV rays from the sun are the main cause of wrinkles and dark spots. By using a sunscreen, you're protecting yourself from skin cancer as well as giving your skin that anti-aging look in the long run. I recommend using sunscreen with SPF50 or more. And for me, I don't think skin type matters when it comes to sunscreen. So any brands should work just as well no matter the price point.

Recommendation: *Neutrogena Hydro Boost Sunscreen SPF50 – \$12.49* or the *Murad City Skin Age Defense Broad Spectrum SPF50 – \$68*.

B. Primer:

Face primer is the first layer of makeup that goes onto your skin. Its job is to keep your makeup fresh and smooth for as long as possible. So for primer, you should pick the ones that would improve your skin type. Most brands have different primers catering to all skin types, you should have no problem trying to find one that suits you.

1. Dry skin: A moisturizing primer would work best.

Recommendation: *NYX Bare With Me Hydrating Jelly Primer – \$17* or the *First Aid Beauty Ultra Repair Hyaluronic Hydrating Primer – \$28*.

2. Oily skin: An oil control primer is definitely what you will need.

Recommendation: *Smashbox Photo Finish Oil & Shine Control Primer – \$39* or the *Catrice Prime & Fine Pore Refining Anti-Shine Base – \$7.99*.

3. Normal skin and combination skin: I recommend oil control primers for both of these skin types also because oil is usually the main problem why your makeup doesn't last long. You can also try out pore minimizing primers if your pores are visible.

Recommendation: *Benefit Cosmetic POREfessional Face Primer – \$32* or the *Too Faced Hangover Primer – \$34*.

4. Sensitive skin: This type of skin gets irritated really easily so a light spray primer would be easy on the skin.

Recommendation: *MAC Prep+Prime Spray – \$28* or the *Smashbox Photo Finish Primer Water – \$32*.

C. Foundation:

Your foundation is the second layer of your face makeup. Foundations are often used to cover up imperfections and even out your skin tone. They are chosen based on your own preferences. There are 3 main types of foundation coverage that you can pick from: light, medium and full.

- 1. Light coverage:** If your skin doesn't have many imperfections or you're just simply a natural girl, light coverage would be perfect for you. Light coverage foundations have just enough pigmentation to give you that even and smooth looking skin, but still embrace your natural beauty.

Recommendation: *NARS Sheer Glow Foundation – \$47* or the *Urban Decay Cosmetic Stay Naked Weightless Liquid Foundation – \$39.*

- 2. Medium coverage:** This is the perfect coverage for people who have uneven skin or want to cover up pimples, freckles, ... Medium coverage foundations are usually the best because you can use it for any makeup look. They are suitable for both your everyday no-makeup look and your weekend party look.

Recommendation: *Too Faced Born This Way Foundation – \$39* or the *Wet n Wild PhotoFocus Liquid Foundation – \$6.49.*

- 3. Full coverage:** Full coverage foundations have become popular in the last few years among makeup artists and beauty bloggers. They give you that blank canvas you need to unleash your inner artist. Yes, full coverage foundations pretty much clear everything out on your face. The only downside of them is that they can be heavy and might not be ideal on a hot sunny day.

Recommendation: *HUDA Beauty FauxFilter Foundation – \$40* or the *Maybelline Superstay Foundation – \$11.99.*

D. Concealers:

I think concealer is an optional product but it's always nice to have one just in case. I like to see concealers as full coverage foundations on steroids. They are extremely pigmented and tend to be thicker than foundation, as they are meant to be used on smaller sections: dark circles, pimples, ... They can come in handy when you feel like skipping foundation. Some people just use concealer to cover their dark circles up quickly and call it a day, instead of spending 10 minutes just to put on foundation.

Recommendation: *Tarte Double Duty Shape Tape Contour Concealer* – \$27 or the *LA Girl HD Pro Concealer* – \$4.99.

E. Setting powder:

Setting powder is optional for dry and normal skin but it's a must for oily or combination skin. It helps to add another protective layer against the oil and make your makeup last longer. It is also used to touch-up your makeup throughout the day and give you that fresh look again.

Recommendation: *RCMA No Color Powder* – \$12 or the *Laura Mercier Translucent Loose Setting Powder* – \$39.

III. Overview:

I hope that you'll find this guide helpful when it comes to choosing your face/base makeup products! It might take you a few tries until you're able to find your perfect match, but don't worry, there are thousands of choices for you out there. What works for other people might not work for you and vice versa, ... Most importantly, remember that makeup is just all fun and games. Do what makes you happy, love yourself and embrace your natural beauty.