

# Get the look Sali Hughes on make-up brushes

**I**'m passionate about decent make-up brushes. A good-quality brush will make cheap eye shadow go on like silk and allow Superdrug blusher to pass for Dior. They're like kitchen knives: while they're often expensive, you'll keep coming back to your favourite few.

I'm never without powder, blusher, eye shadow, liner, slanted brow and flat concealer brushes (controversially, I rarely bother with a lip brush) and, as a rule, I use synthetic bristles for anything waxy or liquid (concealer, highlighter) and natural bristles for powdery products (eye shadow, blush).

Bin immediately those small brushes that come with make-up (they are always useless) and instead shop for separate make-up tools from a brand that specialises in them. Be prepared to invest - cheap brushes are rarely properly weighted, giving you less control; and the bristles are often flat-edged rather than domed, making blending impossible. There are some notable exceptions below.

Brush hygiene is important. I clean mine every four-six weeks with mild shampoo (do not condition - you'll over-soften the bristles, losing precision), then reshape before lying flat on a clean towel to dry. Here are the brands I use every day.



RUI FARIA FOR THE GUARDIAN/REX

**Crown Brush**  
from £3, [crown-brush.co.uk](http://crown-brush.co.uk)  
Any make-up artist will have several of these in their kit. A superb, no-frills professional range for every budget.

**EcoTools** from £4.99, [boots.com](http://boots.com)  
Cruelty-free, environmentally conscious brushes at a great price. Especially good for applying creams and lotions.

**Tom Ford**  
from £35, [harrods.com](http://harrods.com)  
I practically wept when I first used these. Crazy, expensive, but beautifully made. So start dropping Christmas hints to someone rich.

**Laura Mercier**  
from £20.50, [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)  
Laura is a genius with brushes. All are incredible, but her smudge brush for eyes is a make-up magic wand.

**Space NK**  
from £10, [spacenk.co.uk](http://spacenk.co.uk)  
Every brush in this small but perfectly formed range is a winner. I've used them every day for a decade.

**Mac** from £7, [maccosmetics.co.uk](http://maccosmetics.co.uk)  
It's hard to go wrong with a Mac brush. Every conceivable shape at honest, but not obscene, prices.

