

Get the look

Sali Hughes on concealer

Concealer is arguably the most important make-up item. It's there to cover dark circles, spots and discolouration and, if applied properly, will have a dramatic yet imperceptible effect on your face. Basically, you'll look like yourself only with more sleep and yoga, less sun and wine.

Choose a dense, creamy concealer in one shade lighter than your natural skin tone (any lighter will highlight imperfections; any darker won't hide anything) and use a small brush (a lip brush is ideal). I apply concealer either alone or after tinted moisturiser or foundation - never before. Coat the bristles with concealer and paint on spots, red areas around the nose, and dark eye circles. A little concealer on the blueish area to the sides of the eyes at the top of the nose makes a huge difference, too.

Don't cover pinkness or freckles; they're like being blessed with permanent make-up, and it's ageing when skin is masked like this.

Use your ring or pinky finger to gently blend in the concealer until you're happy with the coverage, then lock it down with a little face powder. If a bad spot is still poking through, repeat the process so you have a concealer club sandwich - concealer-powder-concealer-powder. Here, are the best I've tried.

Bobbi Brown Creamy Concealer £17, bobbibrown.co.uk

A superb cover-up for all ethnicities, with a matching powder. Wonderful on mature skin.



Stila Cover Up Stick £11.75, beautybay.com

An excellent opaque all-round concealer stick in perfect yellow-based shades.

Crème De La Mer The Radiant Concealer £45, cremedelamer.co.uk

Before you wince at the price, consider that this concentrated, silky concealer lasts over a year. Perfect.

Rimmel London Hide The Blemish £4.49, asos.com

A beauty classic. Dense and lasting without cakiness.

Clinique Anti-blemish Solutions Clearing Concealer

£12.50, houseoffraser.co.uk

Suitable only for spots, this brilliantly conceals and heals at the same time.



Dermacolour £4.10, screenface.co.uk

I recently used this on a woman with severe acne and she looked flawless. Nothing gets past this bad boy.



RUI FARIA FOR THE GUARDIAN; GETTY IMAGES