

Get the look Sali Hughes on primers

I'm asked about primers more often than almost any other product, and it's taken me about 10 years to stop pulling a face in response. This is because when primers first appeared, and every beauty editor and celebrity make-up artist was raving about these new wonder products that transformed skin texture and kept make-up in place all day, I found them to be pretty rubbish. They left a horrible chalky finish on my face, they disintegrated into little balls when I applied foundation, they were drying, and they ate up valuable time better spent in bed.

But after revisiting them recently, I can tell you they've improved beyond recognition. The new primers actually work. You know those days when your make-up just doesn't go on properly and you have to wash it all off and start again? Primer stops that. You know how foundation creeps off your face in the heat? Not with primer. I don't use it every day - there is, for me, such a thing as a step too many - but if I'm having a bad skin day, or my make-up needs to last until late, it's a lifesaver. Smooth (don't rub or massage) over moisturised skin, leave for a few seconds then apply foundation or tinted moisturiser. Here are my favourite six.

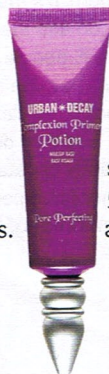


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Smashbox Photo Finish Hydrating (main photo) £31, debenhams.com
Dehydrated skins rejoice! A primer that doesn't leave us flaky and grey. My launch of the year.

Urban Decay Pore Perfecting Primer Potion £18, houseoffraser.co.uk
Great for oily skins with large, pores. Matt finish, and no parabens.

Cover FX BritePrep Brightening Primer £44, houseoffraser.co.uk
Goes on like a dream, leaves a subtle sheen, factor 50 protection and no grease.



DHC Velvet Skin Coat from £9.50, dhc.co.uk
Lovely on all skin types and ages. Kept make-up locked down all day, and felt weightless on the skin.

Nip+Fab Sheer Make-up Fix £15.95, boots.com
New brand. Went on smoothly, filled fine lines and kept make-up in place.



Smashbox Photo Finish Luminizing £30, debenhams.com
I never feature two products from the same brand but, oh my, this is wonderful for dull complexions.