



# Lit From *Within*

Glowing, healthy skin will forever be in style, and with its supple, natural and life-radiating finish, it isn't very hard to see why so many brides are opting to make skin the true hero of their makeup look. *Western Australia Wedding & Bride* editor **Bethany Hayes** sits down with founder and lead hair and makeup artist at Black Lash Makeup, Tara Clark, sharing her tips on how to embody every bit of that ethereal bridal glow for yourself.

**H**aving countless years of experience in bridal hair and makeup under her toolbelt, Tara Clark is no stranger to the transformative powers of makeup, and how to make someone look – and feel – their very best. A bridal look has long been synonymous with glowing skin, a skin that radiates the internal happiness that comes with marrying the person you love most of all. Journey with us reader, as we dive skin deep into the foundations of a glowing bridal look and exactly how to achieve this beaming brilliance for yourself.

## Preparation Is Paramount

Glowing skin – much like anything – never happens overnight. And while makeup certainly offers impressive transformative properties and excellent coverage, true healthy skin starts long before your wedding day. “If you want to achieve that gorgeous glowing skin, there is a bit of work to be done prior to the wedding,” Clark affirms. “Depending on what your skin is like and how much time you have in the lead up to your wedding, you might want to look into a course of skin needling or microdermabrasion,” the expert explains. “When it comes to makeup application, plumped and hydrated skin is the goal to get that [beautiful] end result.”

Investing in your skin is investing in your body's largest organ, plus, as it's something you'll wear for life, it's well worth the maintenance both before and after your wedding to ensure it is nourished with antioxidants and protected from UV damage with SPF. Clark's passion for helping her brides achieve the best possible result goes one step further, with her even collaborating with Extreme Beauty by Keshia to help brides prepare their skin and ensure the makeup “looks as good as it possibly can on the wedding day”.

## Get Your Glow On

Now that the skin has been prepped, it's time for the glowing makeup magic to begin. Clark explains

that with the healthy and youthful appearance that a radiant makeup look gives, it's not surprising that so many of her clients request that “dewy, lit from within” look. To commence this fresh radiance, Clark begins by massaging the skin with a cult favourite – MAC Fix +, which she finds “smooths the skin and creates a nice canvas for the next level of product”. If a bride's skin is on the drier side, a nourishing face oil might be used, followed by a primer. The key here being, the approach is different depending on each bride's unique skin – from mattifying and blurring primers for those with an oily base, or an illuminating primer where appropriate.

“I don't often use full coverage for bridal,” explains Clark. Coining her favourite foundations as the MAC Face and Body and Giorgio Armani Luminous Silk “if the skin is in tip-top condition”, Clark then sets to work with a synthetic brush to apply the foundation, before buffing it into the skin with a large fluffy brush. “Concealer is used sparingly, which is why it's important to have your skin in the best condition possible,” the makeup artist affirms. “You want to be careful with concealer as you don't want to cover up all the good work you've done priming the skin underneath.”

## Pure Radiance

While serious glow is often the goal for many brides, a wedding spans many hours. Plus, with the mix of dancing, photos and general mingling, you're going to want to ensure your radiant base stays looking fresh for as long as you have it on. This is where proper skin preparation, and some strategic yet refined powdering can make a huge difference, provided you don't go overboard. Clark suggests using a flat, less fluffy brush to gently press the powder into areas prone to shine or using a damp sponge to help melt the powder into the skin and become one with it.

Now that the base is set and locked in place, how can we add some effervescent glow to our cheeks? Think blush and highlighter to give a

welcome flush and bring some life back to your skin! “Highlighter is one of my favourite products to use,” Clark attests. “I have a number of ride-or-die formulas and layering both cream and powder products will give you an ethereal glow for the entire wedding day. I love to use the Cover FX drops and the Mecca Max Liquid Light Drops,” she continues, also flagging the Nars Overlust palette as a personal favourite. “Highlighter is best placed high on the cheekbone, the tip of the nose and high on the bridge, the cupid's bow and across the brown bone – just under the eyebrow arch.”

## Don't Forget The Decolotage

On your wedding day, the glow isn't limited to your face, either. If your dress allows for it, why not bring some glow to your decolotage, collarbones or shoulders? Or, if you have a daring thigh-high split, some illuminating liquid highlighter down the centre of your legs can help to elongate your gorgeous pins. “The use of a nourishing moisturiser and well-placed highlighter can work a treat if you'd like to add a glow to these areas,” says Clark. “Brushing highlighter across the clavicle and focusing on the top of the shoulder can look beautiful in photography,” she adds.

When marrying your special person, the love you have for them will surely radiate through every picture. Working with a trusted makeup artist can help translate this radiance through your final makeup look and ensure your dewy skin is there to last the entire celebration. And this, as it turns out, may be the best thing possible to achieve a glowing base. “Makeup should look better the longer you wear it – your foundation and other products should relax and become one with your skin,” notes Clark. But even before the makeup application, Clark's resounding advice is to take care of yourself from the inside-out. “Looking after your skin, both inside and out prior to your special day is the best way to ensure you will have that glowy, flawless skin of your dreams.”

*Photography by Kevin McGinn Photographer*