

Don't make it up as you go along – plan ahead



Tina recommends a trial run-through about two to three months before the big day. BELOW LEFT: One of Tracy's clients. Pictures: Tracy Conway-Smith, of Conway Smith Photography



Tina Brocklebank was a finalist for the title Make-up Specialist Of The Year 2011. Picture: Tracy Conway-Smith



Not just for the ladies ...

Looking good and feeling great will add that extra sparkle on your big day, so why not treat yourself to a pampering session? It's not just the ladies who have the right to look good, either.

Never mind keeping up with the Jones' – keep up with the missus.

Since the glorious David Beckham came on to the scene, boys are taking their beauty regimes to a whole new level, and their ladies are not complaining about it (unless of course they cannot get into the bathroom).

Hairdressers are taking more bookings and there seems to be no embarrassment surrounding beauty therapies as there was in years gone by.

Guys are booking in for the works, taming their unruly eyebrows, softening their skin with facials and opting for a relaxing massage rather than a session down the pub.

A pedicure to ease away the toil of Saturday footy sessions or Sunday rugby games, a manicure to soften hard working hands, or an Indian head massage to relieve office tensions are just some of the options.

A facial or wet shave is also a great way to bring your skin back to life after one too many pre-wedding tipplés, or to prepare you for the kiss after you are pronounced man and wife.

Also, if there are any ladies out there looking for a special present for their husband-to-be, look no further than the local beauty salons, barbers and clothing emporiums.

Enjoy him dressing to impress. He may not be Brad Pitt, but he can still look a million dollars.



When planning a wedding, a lot of time will be spent thinking about what dress to wear, the shoes, the accessories, the guests and the venue.

But one of the most important things that cannot be left until last is organising your beauty regime.

Looking your best on your big day is a must and plenty of thought and planning into how you are going to wear your hair and style your make-up is required.

Although many brides feel comfortable

doing their make-up themselves, it's always a good idea to have an expert on hand.

Make-up artist Tina Brocklebank, of Lincolnshire, has more than 21 years' experience and was a finalist for the title Make-up Specialist Of The Year 2011, in the Professional Beauty awards.

She has recently worked with legendary make-up artist Maggie Hunt, too.

"It's the one day of your life where you will be the star attraction," said Tina, who was educated at the London College Of Fashion.

"There's a pressure to look beautiful, but the rule of thumb is to be yourself and look

gorgeous. Naturally enhance what you've got, without going overboard."

Like with everything else to do with a wedding, planning ahead is key.

Although Tina has already received bookings for ceremonies this time next year and for 2013, she said it's down to the bride.

However, she usually recommends you book in a trial run-through about two to three months before the big day. The aim of this is for the bride to get an idea of what she will look like, as well as pick up some tips.

"When it comes to bridal make-up, I always say less is more," said Tina.

"You don't want to look dramatically

different for your wedding. You should look like you – just a bit better.

"I advise to do make-up as if you were going to a special occasion, such as a black-tie event. You don't want to look too natural, so it's about getting the balance right and giving the bride what she wants."

Tina usually starts her first consultation with a face chart and specialised advice on what products to use on the skin.

"I do a general skin preparation," said Tina, who tends to use Bobbi Brown and Mac make-up.

"I also give them little tips to make sure their skin is at its best for the big day. Drinking lots of water and using a moisturiser with at least SPF 15 in it are good ways to start."

When it comes down to the make-up itself, Tina has a few handy hints and tips to get a flawless, but natural look.

"Waterproof mascara is a must," said Tina, who has worked on magazines, fashion shows, TV commercials and theatre.

"Not only will it withstand tears on what is an emotional day, but it generally lasts longer.

"On the cheeks, it's best to use a pretty shade of blush. A pink tone is good if you're fair and if your skin is a bit darker, a rose shade is suitable.

"I always use white eyeshadow as a highlighter on the brow bone and Bobbi Brown Gel Eyeliner, which enhances the lashes and defines the eyes.

"Be careful when giving definition to the eyebrows, as you don't want them to look too overpowering."

With more women going for a fake tan rather than a real one to protect their skin, it's no surprise that brides want an artificial glow for their big day.

"I wouldn't rule against fake tan, but it's important to shop around and have a trial run with it," said Tina.

"You don't want to look too orange on your big day. You can also use bronzing powder on your neck and chest to even out skin colour.

"To achieve flawless skin that looks natural, I always use a yellow-based foundation or powder. I avoid any frosted make-up as it creases easily and looks too reflective on pictures.

"The final touch is the lips. Pale or brown shades can make you look washed out, so add a bit of colour."

Tina also likes to use Shu Uemura, Mac and Eylure false eyelashes, which she says can give a natural, beautiful look.

"If you want false eyelashes that aren't reminiscent of a panto dame, you must go for light ones that won't damage your lashes," said Tina. "As with anything, give them a try out before the big day to see if they look and feel all right."

For more information on Tina, visit www.tinabrocklebank.co.uk or www.facebook.com/pages/Tina-Brocklebank-Make-up-Artist



One of Tina's bridal clients. Picture: Richard Moore Photography

Choose the right style for you

When planning a wedding, the hairstyle for the bride on the big day is one of the most important things to work out. It cannot be left unplanned or until the last minute.

Ideally, to look your very best on that special day, a lot of thought needs to be given beforehand.

Decisions will need to be made on how you are going to wear your hair – up or down – what style of make-up you require to go with it and if you are going to wear any accessories.

It is best to consult professionals to do your hair and book various appointments throughout your wedding planning, so that you can try out different hairstyles and products, finding the ones that suit you best, and which will also complement your wedding dress.

Most hairdressers will have worked with brides before and will have a good idea of what will look good.

If you have a regular hairdresser who you trust and you know will do a good job, speak to them and arrange to have a chat about all the possibilities.

Some people, for their wedding day, like to look very different and some like to look very similar, so the consultation will give you a good idea about all the different options.

You can either visit the salon or hire a hairdresser to come to your home, which might make the day slightly-less stressful for you and your bridal party.

When deciding the look, most brides will have an idea of what they want, with the majority of hairdressers having years of experience in making a bride look beautiful.

Researching the new season's looks, through hair and beauty magazines, can give you inspiration, but it is important to remember what is practical for your hair type.

You will need to consider the length of your hair, too, if you are to wear a veil or tiara and think about what suits your face shape.

Up-to-the-minute fashion cuts might look great on celebrities, but have you got the cheekbones to carry it off?

If you plan on wearing an accessory in your hair, the key is to keep it simple – don't choose something so large that it detracts from your dress. They should both complement each other rather than contrast.

On the big day, make sure you leave plenty of time to get ready and don't forget to delegate some of the last-minute jobs to your bridesmaids, so that you can savour every moment of getting ready.



The rule of thumb is to be yourself. Naturally enhance what you've got, without going overboard

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