

shopping  
for . . .

beauty

# concealers



blemish banishers

**STEP 1** Using the brush, dot a tiny amount of the concealer on the blemish.  
**STEP 2** For stay-put finish, dip a large fluffy makeup brush into loose powder and lightly tap it over the spot.

## zap and cover

**What you want:** To heal your zit while you put it into hiding.

**What to look for:** Cream concealers packed with ingredients that kill blemish-causing bacteria, such as salicylic acid or tea tree oil.

**What to try:** Maybelline Shine Free Blemish Control Concealer \$5.25; Revlon Correct & Conceal Blemish Stick, \$9.75; Clinique Acne Solutions Concealing Cream (below), \$12.50.

**Pro tip:** Acne-fighting concealers may leave your skin a little flaky, says Kat. At lunch, dab the spot clean and reapply the concealer. Note: Never use a pimple-formula concealer under your eyes—acne-drying ingredients can wreak havoc on the delicate under-eye skin, Kat says.

## flawless finish

**What you want:**

Full coverage for any imperfection.

**What to look for:** Solid creams (in compact, pot or stick form) that can mask any blemish.

**What to try:** Skinmarket Under Cover Dual Concealer, \$10.75; Cargo Concealer, \$16; Laura Mercier Secret Camouflage (above), \$26.

**Pro tip:** The best way to apply these creams is with a concealer brush. "The brush acts as a blending tool and helps distribute color evenly," says Kat.

Dark circles, zits, scars—whatever your flaw, we've got you covered.

by Andrea Dawn Clark

There's an art to camouflaging a pimple," says New York City makeup artist Kat James (who's worked her magic on famous faces like LeAnn Rimes and Tara Lipinski). "Doing it the wrong way can actually make it look more noticeable than leaving it alone."

Kat warns. According to her, the key is to apply concealer directly on top of the spot—and blend, blend, blend. (For info on how to zap zits and prevent future ones, see page 232.)

## write-out

**What you want:**

A hassle-free spot concealer.

**What to look for:** Concealer pencils that can pinpoint a pimple.

**What to try:** Jane Write Away Concealer, \$3.49; Bourjois Concealer Pencil, \$10; Prescriptives Magic Concealing Wand (above), \$14.

**Pro tip:** Grab one of these no-mess pencils for covering up on the bus. Wait for a full stop and anchor your hand to your face with your pinkie, ring and middle fingers. Then quickly dot on the concealer right over the spot, says Kat. Before the bus moves again, blend in the product by gently tapping your pinkie over it. ▶



## undereye emergencies



Were you up all night getting the full scoop on your best friend's new guy? If so, you may wake up with those dreaded undereye circles. Often a factor of genetics, dark circles are tiny blood vessels located just beneath the delicate skin around the eyes. While nothing can banish these eyesores permanently, you *can* make them vanish temporarily with the right concealer. First, select a shade that matches your skin tone. "Test the color directly on the area to be concealed or match it to the foundation you may be already using," recommends Collier Strong, consulting makeup artist for L'Oréal. **Tip:** For added moisture, dip your brush (like The Body Shop Concealer Brush, \$5) in eye cream and blend it with the concealer.

## light fix

**What you want:** To camouflage moderately dark undereye circles.

**What to look for:**

A lightweight, creamy concealer.

**What to try:** Bath & Body Works Imperfection Correction Cream (above), \$7; L'Oréal Féel Naturelle Concealer, \$7.50; Christian Dior Hydrating Concealer, \$19.50.

**Pro tip:** For fluid textures (tube containers), squeeze a small amount of concealer on your fingertip and apply to the desired area. Gently blend into your skin and lightly pat dry.

## all-in-one

**What you want:** To even out skin tone and hide undereye circles with one product.

**What to look for:** Creamy, blendable stick foundations that can be used anywhere on the face.

**What to try:** Maybelline Express 3 in 1, \$8.75; L'Oréal Quick Stick, \$12.35; Almay One Coat Light & Easy makeup (below), \$12.50; Bobbi Brown Stick Foundation, \$35.

**Pro tip:** With stick formulas, apply a thin layer of oil-free moisturizer first. Use the stick only where skin is dark or red, then blend with your fingertips or a sponge.



## shade out

**What you want:**

To erase deep-set, hard-to-cover dark circles.

**What to look for:** A waxy solid concealer (in compact, pot or stick form) that you can apply with a brush.

**What to try:** Jane No-Show Concealer (above), \$3.49; CG Smoothers Illuminator Concealer, \$4.50; Tony & Tina Therapeutic Eye Base, \$22.

**Pro tip:** When you're working on those deep-set circles, check your coverage in two kinds of light—indoors and out.