

BEAUTY

GENUINELY FAKE!

That flirty lash, perfectly bristled eyebrow, the sun-kissed skin, luscious mane and knock-out nails are not always easy to achieve. Faking them right is an easy solution, says SAVIA RAJAGOPAL

DOE EYED FLUTTER...

Flirty eyelashes can speak volumes but most of us aren't exactly blessed with abundant lashes. Luckily, fake lashes could do the trick.

Expert Speak:

Says Vimi Joshi, MAC senior artist, India and Middle East, "There are many types of false eye lashes available in an array of shapes, sizes and colours. You can use a full set of lashes to give volume or you can use individual lashes in the corner of your eyes to create a "cat-like" effect. If you're feeling funky you can even go for coloured ones! If you have to cut the lashes to suit your own eye shape, always cut from the outside (the longer side). Try and get the false lashes as close to the natural lash line as possible."

NAILING IT...

For women whose nails refuse to grow, fake nails are a heaven sent. The stick-on varieties of nails however, aren't as popular now. **Expert Speak:** States Kavita Bathija, head technician, Nail Bar, Bandra, "The products used for artificial nails can be acrylic, or gel. Subject to maintenance, which is recommended every 2-3 weeks, artificial nails can be worn for as long as you want. It's very important that artificial nails are put on and removed by a professional. If done incorrectly, only then can there be damage to original nails. Otherwise, it's perfectly safe." Regular maintenance is an absolute must.

RAISING BROWS...

Most women complain of lacking the perfect shaped arched eyebrows. It's inevitably scanty or bushy! All sorts of remedies are looked into and experimented with, but to no avail. Enter fake eyebrows and there's a ray of hope. **Expert Speak:** Says Joshi, "The thumb rule is that 'eyebrows are sisters, not twins'. They are meant to be slightly uneven. The key is to get them looking as similar to each other as possible. You can do this by filling in the eyebrows either by using eyebrow pencils in flick like strokes or you can use a small angled brush with an eye shadow in a colour close to your eyebrows to recreate the hair shape."

LUSCIOUS MANE...

Although, not a very practical option, women who want to experiment with the way they look can try out wigs. Hair extensions are a more popular option that can give you luscious mane. **Expert Speak:** Meetah Kothari, director, Tress Talk, says, "Women can go in for camouflaging that's to cover flaws like scanty hair, or for a funkier look where they can add coloured streaks to their hair which last for nearly six months. Hair length can be increased to 28 inches. Maintenance should be done every three months at a salon."

TANS ALRIGHT...

That ever desired 'sunkissed, just returned from the French Riviera' look is always in demand. Turn to fake tans and get the same effect! **Expert Speak:** "You can use a bronzing powder or a foundation that is warmer in tone. When choosing bronzing products, be careful that the colour is not too orange or red. Always test on a small area first, like your forearm to check for the colour," advises Joshi.

CAT EYES...

Not everyone is born with dreamy eyes. Thanks to technology, having the eye colour of your choice isn't all that difficult. The idea is to complement your natural face colour and not end up like you've walked off the sets of a horror show! **Expert Speak:** Says Pooja Arora, make up artist, "For women with wheatish complexion, brown or hazel are a good choice. If fair skinned, then you could try grey. Lens colour also depends on the base colour of your eye, which varies from person to person. It's ultimately a matter of trial and seeing what suits you best." Also, lenses need special care so you might want to look at your lifestyle before indulging in them.

