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February 2014

Editor's Pick Keep Puckering Up for Valentine's Day How to get soft and sweet lips

By Cheryl Fenton



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Pucker up, buttercup. It's Valentine's Day soon. How pretty is your pout? Last time I checked, mine looked like it might feel like a cat's tongue. I have outdoor winter weather and indoor heat to thank.

Tell those chilly temps and dry air to kiss off. Stop V-Day from becoming D-Day with these lip tips—just in time for any soft, smooth smooches you might have planned.

Soften

Start with a smooth canvas. Exfoliate lips to remove dead skin and perfect your pout. Try a little bit of brown sugar—actual sweet kisses are sure to follow. Mix 1 teaspoon with a few drops of olive oil (extra hydration) and lightly rub your dry lips in small circles. If you want to leave the mixing to the pros, Sara Happ makes lips happy with her Brown Sugar Lip Scrub. Bliss also recently launched a new pout-o-matic in their fabulips line. It uses gentle battery-powered rotation with massaging nubs to

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Smooth

There's nothing less appealing than peeling. Always keep lips hydrated with a balm or serum. Bonus - color will glide on easier and last longer. Try Peter Thomas Roth's Unwrinkle Lips and Josie Maran's Argan Oil Moisturizing Stick. And nothing says "old" more than those pesky lip lines. Reach for an anti-aging treatment like SkinCeuticals Antioxidant Lip Restorative Repair or June Jacobs Lip Masque, part of her three-step lip kit, to help kiss those wrinkles goodbye.



Stay-Put

Ensure kiss-perfect lips with color that stays on you (and doesn't bleed all over the place) by first defining and filling in lips with a neutral liner that matches the shade of your lips. This all-over base will help color stay put. I love Make Up For Ever's new lip line perfecter just around the lip line. It's a colorless way to keep your lipstick from feathering (something that darker and true reds like to do), so you can wear it with whatever shade you choose.



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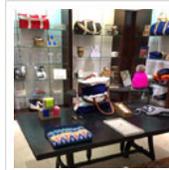
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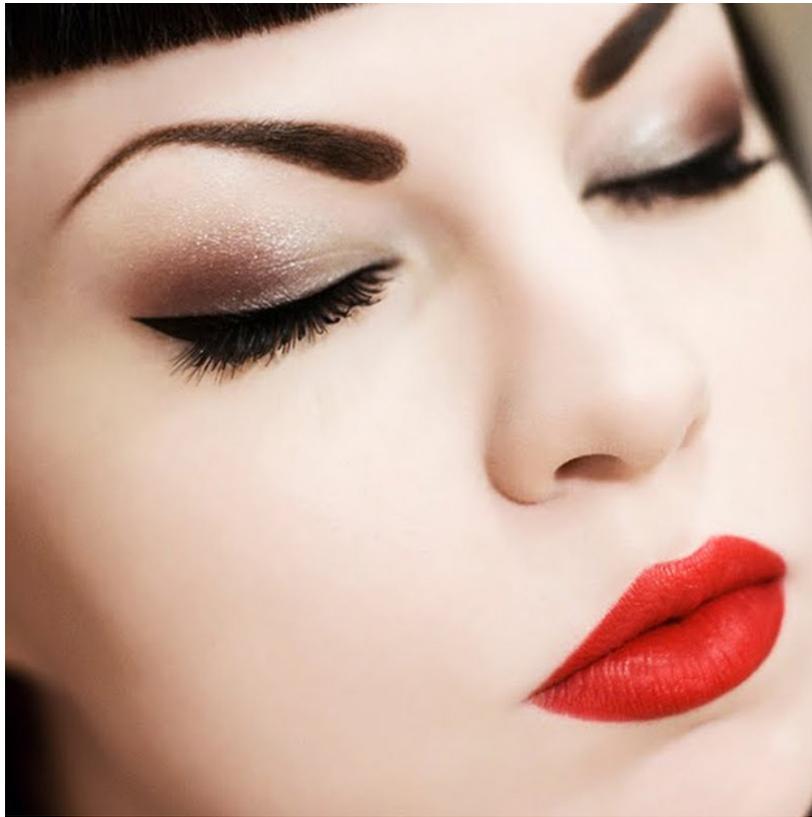
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True Red

Sure, pink is nice and über-sweet. But on such a special day, why not take the plunge and make it a time for sultry. Red lips are the way to go, IMHO. A few choices beyond your typical drug store L'Oreal Paris – Illamasqua makes a gorgeous gloss that's a sparkly cherry called Touch; Flower's chubby lip in Bloom makes your lips blossom; and Japonesque Lip Laquer in Shade 7 is a gorgeous shiny brush-on gloss. MAC Pro Longwear Lipcolour in Lasting Lust is my all-time go-to red, but I warn you...it's a stain. Before you shy away (let's face it, most stains are terrifying), this one is the easiest I've ever used. It doesn't bleed like some and has a clear gloss to glide over the red. Heed my warning - staying power is insane. True story: I tried to take it off but was unsuccessful. It was still on the following morning and only diminished after serious scrubbing. In other words, if you're a commitment-phobe, don't use this lip color.



Follow all this advice now and your sweetheart will lavish you with kisses on the big day. And that's not just lip service.



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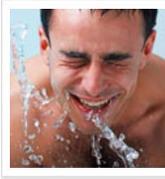
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