

Lifestyle

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Power puff

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Most women want to look perfect for their big day, whether they're getting married, going to a prom or accepting a major award for their achievements. The last thing they want to worry about is their makeup.

Airbrushed makeup perfect for special occasions, events

So, instead of putting on their makeup with brushes and sponges, a growing number of women are choosing to have it airbrushed on.

Yes, airbrushed.

Cathy Scarengille, 40, of Margate, says she is one of the few to bring the technique to the East Coast. She was trained in Hollywood and Miami, and uses her own line of makeup that was formulated with the help of a

chemist. The result is an application that is sweat- and smudge-proof.

"It lasts a lot longer than traditional makeup," Scarengille said. "It's sprayed onto the skin" and dries almost instantly.

Using Marcella Morrell, 22, of Cape May, as a model, Scarengille demonstrated how it works.

It starts with an air compressor, about the size of a small chair, that costs about \$250. A long air pencil with a small bowl on top is connected to the compressor. Scarengille put liquid eye shadow into the bowl, and used the air pencil to spread a thin film on Morrell's face. The mist was so fine, it was almost invisible as it flew from the pencil to Morrell's eye lids.

"You can barely feel it coming on," Morrell said as she leaned back in a chair amid the wall-to-wall mirrors in the Airmakeup salon in Margate. "It's like having a facial. It's so relaxing."

Each application uses about four drops of makeup, so there is no waste and no caked-on look, Scarengille said. A 1-ounce bottle can last for 30 treatments. And because the equipment never touches the client, there is no need to sterilize it between uses.

About five minutes later, Morrell's face was complete, except for mascara and lipstick, which must be applied by hand. Even eyebrows can be airbrushed on.

At \$65 per application, with group discounts available, airbrushed makeup is not for daily wear. Most people get it for special occasions when they want their "face" to last for the entire day, Scarengille said.

The technique will probably become more popular as more people hear about it, Scarengille said. A few people purchase kits for personal use, and they can airbrush their own makeup after a few hours of training. Classes for professionals take two days, with advanced training available.

Meanwhile, Scarengille said, her own business is blossoming. "I already have bookings for weddings in 2003," she said.

For more information, call (609) 822-6247.



Photos by Vernon Ogradnek

Marcella Morrell, 22, of Cape May, shows off her makeup, which was airbrushed on. The result is sweat- and smudge-proof.

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Cathy Scarengille, 40, of Margate, airbrushes makeup on model Morrell. Using an air compressor and a long air pencil, Scarengille applies everything but mascara and lipstick to Morrell's face in as little as five minutes.