

How to: Get the perfect brows

BROW EXPERT NATHAN WILLIAMS GIVES US THE FRAMEWORK FOR PERFECT EYEBROWS

Nathan Williams, from Sydney's Parlour B salon, is known around town as the eyebrow whisperer – he's the undisputed go-to guy when brows are playing up. "Seventy per cent of my clients have problem brows," he says. "They're sparse, or there's a scar through the brow, or the hair's growing in different directions." But there's another reason the moniker is so apt: his softly-softly approach. "Eyebrows should never be the main statement," he says. "You want to keep them looking natural – fairly thick and lightly arched. When women walk out of my salon looking great, not looking like they've just had their brows done, I know I've done my job."

Step 1: SHAPE

"If you have any kind of problem brow, see a specialist to help sort it out and create your best line," says Williams. "Some women require regular professional help – for instance, those with dark hair, a strong brow or fast regrowth. But many women can simply maintain the brow line at home, tweezing every few days." Williams's ideal brow? "Eva Longoria's. The key is to balance natural thickness with a soft arch."

Step 2: FILL

This is an optional step – but a crucial one if you have sparse brows, or brows that need a little lengthening. "Pencils go on the skin," explains Williams. "Work in light strokes to fill in any gaps, warming the tip a little on the back of the hand if necessary. Be careful not to pencil actual hairs. This can overload the brows, just like when you put too much styling product in your hair."

Step 3: DEFINE

"Powder coats hairs and kind of fluffs the brows up," says Williams. Use a small angled brush and light strokes to sweep on brow powder (or even a matte eyeshadow), working outwards. "Err on a lighter shade than you might automatically reach for," adds Williams. "It will look more natural and colour is always easy to build up."

Step 4: SET

Use a brow brush, whether bristled or spooly, to groom brows upwards. If your brow hairs grow in different directions, or have a tendency to fall out of line during the day, set them with a clear brow gel. "Use a good quality gel and wipe the wand first to get rid of excess," advises Williams. "That flaky look isn't pretty."

Want to try winter's strong brow trend?

"It's not about going a shade darker," says Williams. "You can easily get a more intense look with your current brow powder by working foundation or concealer through brows first, then just brush on your brow powder as usual." It's also a great trick for taking brows from day to night.



RALPH LAUREN



NATHAN WILLIAMS



EVA LONGORIA