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Q How far in advance should I color my hair? I don't want to have roots, but I don't want it to look like I just stepped out of the chair either.

A "Go to the salon a week before the wedding," says Brad Johns, color director at Red Door Spas in N.Y.C., who has dyed Christy Turlington's tresses. "This gives the shade time to settle and also gives you a window to make any minor adjustments."

BLONDES Let your colorist know if you'll be wearing your hair in an updo. "It's natural for the hair to look darker underneath, but if there is too much contrast, your colorist may decide to place some highlights along the nape of your neck," Johns says.

BRUNETTES AND REDHEADS To amp up the shade you were born with, says Johns, "a gloss treatment a few days before the wedding will add shine and intensify your natural color."

Q Should I ask my makeup artist to stay with me all day?

A You've ripped up unflattering photos of yourself in the past, but that is not something you'll want to do with your wedding snaps. For this reason, Troy Jensen, L.A. makeup artist to Rachel Bilson, says that if you are able to afford one, to book your makeup artist for the entire day. "It's best to have him with you until most of the photos have been taken—or be sure that he leaves you with an emergency touch-up kit," says Jensen. If having a makeup artist on call is not in your budget, visit your local beauty counter several weeks before your wedding to get a crash course (and all the products you'll need) to apply and maintain your look.

BE PREPARED Touch-up essentials: blotting papers, lip gloss and blush. Shu Uemura Natural blush brush 17, \$50; shu-uemura-usa.com. Bourjois Joues blush in Ambre d'Or, \$14; ulta.com.

Q Should I do my makeup before putting on my dress?

A, Absolutely. Do yourself a favor and wear a button-front shirt or a robe until your hair and makeup are complete. "Only then should you step into your gown, to avoid getting product stains on it," says Jensen. "Once you're dressed, you or your makeup artist can look at the whole picture and determine if any finishing touches are needed," he says. ▶

Q My gown is backless—but I break out in bacne. What can I do to stop it?

A Get ahead of the game by banning unsightly blemishes before they appear:

USE A TARGETED CLEANSER

"Body washes that contain benzoyl peroxide and salicylic acid should treat back breakouts within a few weeks," says Arielle Kauvar, a dermatologist and clinical associate professor of dermatology at New York University School of Medicine. Try Neutrogena Body Clear body wash (\$6; ulta.com) and exfoliate with a dedicated brush, such as Earth Therapeutics Feng Shui back brush (\$8; earththerapeutics.com).

CONSIDER LASER TREATMENTS

For more serious cases, a nonablative laser (like Iridex Gemini) can clear up acne, but you need to start at least three months before the event. However, each session costs from \$400 to \$700, and four to eight sessions are usually required. Available at New York Laser & Skin Care, 212-249-9440.