

GENERAL INFORMATION

Product “Shelf Life”

Most *Mary Kay*[®] products are manufactured to have a minimum shelf life of three years from the date of manufacture, which is the standard for the cosmetic industry, not a regulation. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the shelf life of over-the-counter (OTC) drug products (for example sunscreens, anti-perspirants) as follows: If the shelf life is less than three years, then the expiration date of the product must be clearly indicated on the package. This is not required if the shelf life of the product is greater than three years. Some *Mary Kay* products (for example, *Mary Kay Spot Solution*[®] Skin Lightening Cream) have an expiration date because they have a shelf life of less than three years. Check the expiration date before using them. The best storage temperature is 60-80°F--never less than 55°F or more than 90°F. When products have been exposed to very high or low temperatures, examine them carefully. Note the appearance, odor, and color of each product. If these appear normal, the product has probably recovered completely. Occasionally, separation or an “off odor” may develop several weeks after exposure to high temperatures, but this is not usually the case. If your products have been overheated or frozen, it is NOT a good idea to refrigerate or heat them. Let them return slowly to room temperature, then examine each product.

Product Coding System

A code that consists of a shade name (if applicable), part number and day code is located on the bottom of a container; the barrel of a pencil, or the bottom seal of a tube of each *Mary Kay*® product.

For example, an eye color refill tray might be marked “Honey Glaze 5946 AB05.”

- “Honey Glaze” is the product shade name.
- The four numbers (5946) indicate the part number.
- The second four characters (AB05) indicate the date of manufacture. This day code is useful in maintaining the high-quality standards of Mary Kay, as it is used to trace products returned for any reason.

You can interpret the day code using the following legend:

Character 1: Before the year 2000, a number represents the year in the decade in which the product was produced. Starting with the year 2000, a letter represents the year in the decade in which the product was produced

Key to Years

8 - 1998

A - 2000

C - 2002

9 - 1999

B - 2001

D - 2003

Character 2: A letter represents the month of the year in alpha order, as follows: (Please note that the code skips some letters to avoid confusion and mistaken identification.)

A - January

F - May

R - September

B - February

H - June

T - October

C - March

K - July

V - November

D - April

M - August

X - December

Characters 3 and 4: Numbers represent the day of month.

Example: 9A13 = January 13, 1999

9 = 9th year of decade, 1999

A = January

13 = 13th day of month

AB05 = February 5, 2000

A = 2000

B = February

05 = 5th day of the month