

The Thrifty Traveler: Multipurpose makeup makes packing light a piece of cake

By Myscha Theriault Tribune News Service (TNS)

When it comes to maintaining a professional look under a wide range of conditions and circumstances, finding beauty products that take up a minimal amount of space in the makeup and toiletries bag is critical. Fortunately, a small amount of most cosmetic products will last a long while, making the time it takes to search out those hidden small-sized gems worth the effort.

For example, Trestique's mini trios of micro-sized lip and eye crayons allow travelers to select up to three colors for roughly \$11 each. Their chile red is a classic lip shade suitable for a variety of outfits. Another affordable and neutral alternative exists in Badger's double-ended lip tint and shimmer balm, which gives you two products for the price of one. For \$6, the garnet shade provides coverage for pennies while taking up very little space in your purse or luggage. If liquid lip color is more your speed, **Kismet** makes some fun colors in a slim tube that can easily slide into your pocketbook.

Animal rights activist, sustainability writer and environmentalist Zoe Helene spends a great deal of time in remote areas, juggling a careful balance of research and media interviews. Cramming the necessary cosmetics into an extremely confined space comes with her job description. Her favorite space-saving compact is by Aveda. Designed to hold products by the same company, this particular makeup brand comes stored in the basic metal pans only.

This eliminates excess packaging completely, making for a streamlined storage solution. "The best thing about this solution is the versatility," says Helene. "It is very easy to change out the cosmetics inside because the compacts have a clever magnetic bottom that holds well and makes it easy and simple to shift around makeup according to the needs of your adventure."

If the idea of stripping down packaging and storing powdered cosmetics magnetically to save space appeals to you, there are DIY options available. Magnetic makeup palettes available with Ulta and Sephora can hold de-potted shadows, cream cheek colors and pressed powders.

While the use of clear nail polish for stopping pantyhose runs is certainly a smart way to stay prepared for business trips and provide a simple shine solution for nails, it can fall short when it comes to coverage for those under-the-nail white spots. That's why I've embraced the use of colored polish to treat small tears and snags in hosiery.

Since repaired runs need to be located under clothing so they aren't exposed, color is really a nonissue. This allows women travelers to pack a neutral color that will coordinate with any outfit. Be advised however that darker colors take longer to dry, so if you're wanting to be able to get back to your trip itinerary as quickly as possible you'll likely want to stick with lighter neutrals and nudes.

Neutral shades of makeup can provide you with multiple options in other ways as well. For example, a light shade of shimmery cream pencil can work as an eye shadow, cheek highlighter and even to turn a daytime

shade of lipstick into something more suited for evening. Nudestix makes one in a shade called gilt that's slim enough to save some room and comes with its own sharpener.

Thinking outside the box when it comes to specific uses for different health and beauty products can save you major luggage space as well as money. If a favorite cosmetic item can be used for more than one thing, that's not only one less product you have to buy but one less item you need to pack.

One trick I recently discovered was how easy it is to use mascara as an eyeliner substitute. Using a \$3 application brush I picked up at Target, I can swipe color off the wand to line both the top and bottom lids of each eye. Choosing a waterproof variety ensures my liner will be just as stable as my lash coverage when encountering moisture. If waterproofing isn't an issue for you, Colour Prevails provides a space-saving solution at a drugstore price point.

With a narrow tube containing a different color at each end, using it as a multipurpose eyeliner and mascara provides a four-in-one cosmetic for travelers who want to take their makeup packing to the next level. Powdered eye shadow can also be pressed into service as a liner. Adding a bit of water onto your makeup brush before picking up the powdered pigment will give you added workability.

For years, I've also used lip color as blush when I needed to save space on the plane. Solotrekker4u.com founder Elizabeth Avery takes this tip one step further by using cream color for eyelid shadow as well. Certain shades such as bright red could be problematic, however. Avery's solution? Specifically choosing a neutral shade in order to maximize use.

Zengrrl.com's Michelle Snow has a favorite multipurpose beauty item as well. Coconut oil. After decanting some into a spill-proof container that she stores in a clear zip-top bag for the trip, she uses this basic pantry staple for things such as body moisturizer, lip balm, and even split-end treatments. If you prefer a less liquid option, you may want to search out one of the sturdier balms on the market. Many of them sell in full sizes that still meet TSA requirements. Trilogy's Everything Balm is one example. Burt's Bees Miracle Salve is another.

Perhaps the biggest multipurpose power product on the market however, is a high-quality pressed mineral powder. Requiring minimal luggage space, it can be applied dry with a brush or damp with a cosmetic sponge. Also, if you scrape a bit onto a flat surface or open water bottle cap and mix in a bit of moisturizer, you can create your own concealer on the fly. Scrape a bit more while adding additional lotion, and you can even turn it into a liquid foundation if necessary. When you're done, you'll still have the dry product to brush on as a setting powder.

(Myscha Theriault is a best-selling author and avid traveler. Having just finished a yearlong trip throughout the United States with her husband and Labrador retriever, Theriault is busy planning her next long-term adventure. Readers can keep up with her adventures on Twitter by following [@MyschaTheriault](https://twitter.com/MyschaTheriault).)

©2015 Myscha Theriault

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.