



and air are like kryptonite to their superpowers, we suggest formulas protected by environment-proof packaging or stabilising technology.

So-worth-it serums

5. **Cellex-C Advanced-C Serum**, \$260 (1800 664 455) is supercharged with 17.5 per cent vitamin C plus collagen-protective resveratrol.

6. **MD Formulations Vit-A-Plus Illuminating Serum**, \$160 (1800 808 993) boosts vitamin C and resurfacing AHAs with a shot of retinol-pure vitamin A to get dull skin glowing.

7. **Indio Vitamin C Serum**, \$105 (02 9318 1555) shelters the antioxidant inside a stabilising solution and spheres that burst to release the good stuff.

8. **Alpha-H Alpha A&E 50/50 serum**, \$102 (1800 659 777) combines two free-radical fighters to refine and support complexions with scarring, acne, sensitivity, rosacea, pigmentation and wrinkling.

Flawless at face value

Celebrity makeup artist Chris King shares the wisdom of his craft in *Look Makeup Workshops* (02 9380 8822). His first pearl? No amount of expensive-looking eyes and lips can camouflage a cheap foundation. "It's beyond crucial to invest in a great foundation," he emphasises. "Your skin projects your health; it's the backdrop for your look."

While cheap and cheerful can oxidise throughout the day, changing colour and texture, "a good foundation should have backed-up pigments that work for you – it should not break down or need to be touched up," he says. "It should make you feel confident from the moment you put it on in the morning until the time you take it off – whether that's 5pm or 10pm."

"A big spend upfront can truly make better sense in the long run," highlights King. "Quality pigments spread further and last longer – I can get a year and a half or more of daily use out of a fabulous foundation." A concealer palette that can be mixed to cover a multitude of sins and a featherlight powder "milled

more finely than cooking flour" are also worthy priorities.

Wise buys

9. **La Prairie Skin Caviar Concealer Foundation SPF15**, \$280 (1800 251 010) is King's pick. "It's got concealer in the lid, a mirror, a spatula for hygiene and the pigments are silica-coated so they don't break down. Photographers say skin looks like it's been photoshopped. It's the best I've used."

10. **Lancome Teint Idole Ultra**, \$78 (02 9931 8888). Encapsulated in amino acids, the colour in this liquid foundation settles in for 14 hours. No maintenance required.

11. **Make Up Store Cover All Mix**, \$49 (02 9360 5885). Neutralise redness with the yellow/green colour, counter dark circles with the orange tone and blend with the beige concealer to suit your skin tone to perfection.

12. **Estee Lauder Double Wear Stay-in-Place Powder Makeup**, \$66 (1800 061 326). Superfine pigments treated to repel water glide onto skin and grip tight for a flexible, invisible semi-matte finish.

