General

Product "Shelf Life"

Most Mary Kay® products are manufactured to have a minimum shelf life of three years from the date of manufacture. This 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 such as sunscreens, anti-perspirants, etc., 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 is greater than three years. Some Mary Kay® products (e.g., Acne Treatment Gel) may have an expiration date because they have a shelf life of less than three years. For these products, it is particularly important to check the expiration date before using them.

We recommend storing products at a temperature between is 59-86°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" will 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, and 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 "Crystalline 882800 CX15."

- "Crystalline" is the product shade name.
- The six numbers (882800) indicate the part number.
- The second four numbers (CX15) 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: Letter representing the year in which the product was produced.

Key to Years

A - 2000	**C -** 2002	**E -** 2004
B - 2001	**D-** 2003	

Character 2: Letter representing the month of year in alphabetical order, as follows (please note that the code skips some letters to avoid confusion and mistaken identification):

Key to Month

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 representing the day of month.

Example: CX15 = December 15, 2002
          C = 2002
          X = December
          15 = Fifteenth day of month