

# What's the right perfume for me?



**A perfume is a little like a spouse or a significant other. You have to live with it for a while in order to find out whether it's the right one for you. You have to try out a fragrance – and then take your time and let it work its magic.**

There are several reasons for this. First of all, the scent of a perfume will differ depending upon the surroundings. Its impression can be entirely different in a fragrance-intensive perfume department than in a neutral environment, such as at home. Differences in temperature and humidity also play a major role. However the main reason for these differences in the olfactory effect of a perfume are the various fragrance com-

pounds that it contains, which evaporate at differing rates. That's why perfumers speak of a fragrance composition's top note, heart note and base note. What they mean by this is the way its scent develops, which will be different in every perfume.

However you shouldn't overdo it in searching for the right perfume. If you try out too many perfumes in succession, your nose will quickly go "blind" and you'll no longer be able to differentiate between what you like and what you don't like. That's why you should never test more than four similar or five to six different fragrances at a time – and you should try them out on unperfumed areas of your body that are as far apart from one another as possible.

In addition, a perfume will smell differently on every skin. There's no assurance that you'll like what smells so good on someone else when you wear it yourself. That, too, should be taken into consideration in choosing a perfume.