

Perfume

Perfume is a synthesis of aromatic substances, such as essential oils and incense, used to give the human body, objects, or spaces a pleasant scent. Perfume has a thousand-year history, starting at the beginning of recorded civilisation in Mesopotamia. This region is considered the homeland of perfumes, which then spread westward throughout Greece and Rome, eastward to India and China, and then around the world. Originally, perfume was exclusively for noblewomen, as it evoked elegance, charm, and sensuality. Today, perfumes are familiar to people of all ages. Each perfume has a corresponding purpose and setting, such as for use in sports activities, at parties, or at outdoor events, and they are classified by age, style, gender, and even occupation.

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The main component of perfume is natural essential oil, derived from the fractional distillation of plants, in an alcoholic solvent. More than a thousand different fruits and flowers can be distilled into essential oils, plus other fragrant ingredients, like sandalwood, amber, and tobacco.

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The perfume industry boomed at the end of the 19th century with large-scale manufacturing. There are now about 2,000 famous perfume brands worldwide, with Chanel the leading brand with about 6% of market share.

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Where did perfumes originate?

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What are the basic ingredients of perfume?

What is the world's leading perfume brand?