

## Natural vs. Glitz Pageants: What's the Difference?

One of the first decisions a pageant family makes is choosing between **natural** and **glitz**. These two styles define almost everything about how a pageant looks, feels, and is judged. Here's what you need to know.

### What Is a Natural Pageant?

Natural pageants emphasize a contestant's authentic appearance. The rules vary by organization, but the general philosophy is the same: look your best, but look like *you*.

- **Makeup:** Minimal to none for younger divisions. Teens and adults may wear age-appropriate makeup.
- **Hair:** No wigs, hairpieces, or falls. Natural hair, styled neatly.
- **Attire:** Sunday-best dresses for younger girls. Formal wear for teens and adults. No heavily embellished or custom pageant gowns.
- **Flippers (fake teeth):** Not allowed.
- **Spray tan:** Typically not allowed.

Natural pageants are often recommended for first-time contestants because they're less expensive to prepare for and the environment tends to be more relaxed.

### What Is a Glitz Pageant?

Glitz pageants celebrate full glamour. Contestants at every age are expected to bring their most polished, camera-ready presentation.

- **Makeup:** Full stage makeup including foundation, contouring, lashes, and lipstick — even for young contestants.

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- **Flippers:** Common for younger contestants who have missing teeth.
- **Spray tan:** Common and expected.

Glitz pageants tend to be more competitive and more expensive, but many families love the energy and the artistry involved in the full glitz presentation.

## What About Semi-Glitz?

Semi-glitz is the middle ground. Contestants wear nicer dresses than natural (some embellishments are OK) and light makeup, but the full glitz look — wigs, heavy makeup on young girls, flippers — is not expected. Semi-glitz is growing in popularity because it gives families more flexibility.

## How Do I Choose?

Ask yourself these questions:

- **Budget:** Natural pageants are significantly less expensive. If budget is a concern, start natural.
- **Your contestant's comfort:** Some kids love the full glam experience. Others are more comfortable in a natural setting. Let them lead.
- **Your area:** Some states lean heavily natural (much of the Midwest and Southeast). Others have strong glitz traditions. Check what's available near you.
- **Your goals:** If you're trying pageants for the first time, natural or semi-glitz is usually the best starting point.

## Find Pageants by Style

Use our search to filter by Natural, Glitz, or Semi-Glitz.

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