

# Women | The Private Lives of Muslim Women

'Kohl was made from a variety of sources including burnt frankincense, almond shells or Safflower plants.'

An important ingredient in the application of eye make-up was kohl, made from a variety of sources including burnt frankincense, almond shells or Safflower plants. Believed to have medicinal benefits, kohl was also considered a powerful protection against the 'evil eye' and was kept in small decorative containers containing an applicator stick.



**Name:**  
Kohl Container

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 8th–9th century / AD 14th–15th century Mamluk

**Details:**  
Museum of Islamic Art  
Cairo, Egypt

**Justification:**  
An elegant kohl container which includes a stick attached to the lid for applying the substance to the eyes and eyebrows.

---



**Name:**  
Small bottle for kohl (m'kihla)

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 1003 / AD 1594 Ottoman

**Details:**  
National Museum of Antiquities and Islamic Arts  
Algiers, Algeria

**Justification:**  
Silver kohl containers of the Ottoman period often had a peacock on the top of the applicator stick.

---



**Name:**  
Kohl jar

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 327–400 / AD 939–1010 Fatimid

**Details:**  
National Archaeological Museum  
Madrid, Spain

**Justification:**  
A rock-crystal 'kohl jar' in which a wealthy woman would have kept kohl or antimony chloride, which was used as a cosmetic. This jar would have had a glass rod in it, used to dip into and apply the substances.

---