Indie Nail Polish 101

1. Use a base coat - There are many types of base coats to choose from, such as double bonded, ridge filling, peel-off, and so on. Whichever fits your needs, it's important to apply base coat before you apply your polish. It helps strengthen and protect your nails in general, and also helps to protect your nails from staining.
2. Sometimes extra-large glitters can sink toward the bottom of the bottle. To ensure you don't have to fish for them, turn the bottle on its cap for roughly 3 minutes before applying. If a bottle was trapped on its side during transport, use an orange stick to remove the glitter from the sides and then put it on its cap for a few minutes before applying normally.
3. Always apply top coat. It helps protect your manicure from damage. You can re-apply top coat every other day to keep it fresher, longer. Some polishes can dry to a duller finish. Top coat makes them shiny and bright.
4. Wrap those tips! What is wrapping? It's when you apply each coat of base coat, polish, and top coat, and you ensure you paint over the edge of the tip of your nails. It helps keep your manicure fresh and helps prevent chipping.
5. Oil your cuticles several times a day, if possible. It's very easy for your cuticles to get dry, especially during winter, or if you wash your hands a lot. Oiling them keeps them lubricated and can help stimulate nail growth. Plus your hands just look better!
6. Wait for each coat to dry, or mostly dry, before applying the next coat. This is especially important when using a polish with a lot of glitter. It also helps to ensure even application.
7. The soak-off method is often best to remove glitters that are difficult to remove. To soak off, apply cotton balls dipped in nail polish remover with acetone to your nails for 3-5 minutes on each nail with a clip holding the cotton ball in place, or aluminum foil can hold the cotton ball in place. Or use a peel-off base coat for super easy removal and zero nail damage!
8. Don't use your nails as tools. That's what toothpicks and the like are for.
9. Make a mistake on a nail, but don't want to ruin the nails you have already painted to fix it? Just put a dry cotton ball in a small, round edge chip clip, just enough for the clip to grasp the cotton ball, and you can then hold the clip to apply the polish remover to the cotton ball and then apply the remover to the nail you need to fix! And everyone has a chip clip, right? :D