



WAX FACTS

- A vast creative team works on every single figure, from sculptors who model a star's famous face first in clay before then moulding in wax, to colourists who apply layers and layers of oil paint to create lifelike skin tones, as well as hairdressers and stylists.
- Over 150 precise measurements of a subject's face and head are needed to give Madame Tussauds sculptors all the information they require to create true to life portraits - more than 250 measurements will be used in total to create a figure.
- The skills and techniques used by the studios team today were passed down by Madame Tussaud. Apart from photographing and filming at sittings, minimal modern technology is used; everything is done manually - from taking hundreds of precise measurements of the subject with calipers and measuring tapes, to the sculpting process itself.
- Each strand of hair is inserted by hand individually and it takes approximately five weeks to complete each head of hair.
- From the first private sitting with a star to completion, it takes approximately four months to create a figure and costs around £150,000.
- All figures are created at a central studio in West London and then transported to whichever location they are destined for.
- Each attraction has a talented studios team that ensures all of their figures are in tiptop condition every day. Because guests can get right up close to their idols, figures are also regularly taken out of the attraction so as hair can be re-styled and clothes dry cleaned.
- Many celebrities have donated the clothes their figures wear including Olympian Jessica Ennis' Team GB kit and Helen Mirren's stunning Asprey evening gown; stars' stylists and hairdressers are also consulted to ensure total accuracy right down to the shade of nail polish or lipstick.
- All celebrities' vital statistics are kept confidential; despite repeated requests from the public and media, Madame Tussauds never 'spills the beans'.
- Because wax shrinks, the clay head and body first sculpted to make the wax figures are made 2% larger than the real life subjects being portrayed.
- Red silk thread is used to create the veins on each eyeball and delicate knotted rope creates the look of veins on the body.
- More than 500 million people worldwide have visited a Madame Tussauds since the original attraction was founded in London – that's more than the population of North America and Australia combined.