

‘Dolphin Skin’ Nails: The Glossy Grey Trend of 2026

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The latest manicure craze poised to become one of 2026’s top beauty trends is the so-called “**Dolphin Skin**” nails — an ultra-shiny, glossy grey finish inspired by the smooth shimmer of a dolphin’s wet skin.

The buzz around this look gained momentum after singer and actress **Demi Lovato** debuted the style on a red carpet earlier this year, instantly capturing attention across social media and beauty feeds. Nail artist **Natalie Minerva**, who crafted Lovato’s manicure, explained that the singer herself likened the gleaming finish to dolphin skin — a comparison that quickly stuck and helped name the trend.

At its core, the Dolphin Skin manicure is about sleek sophistication. Instead of bright colours or elaborate nail art, this style relies on a **smoky grey base and an ultra-reflective top layer** that catches the light like water on sleek skin. Some artists achieve the effect using **magnetic gel polishes** that add subtle waves or depth, but even without magnet tools, a high-gloss top coat can create the desired slick sheen.

Beauty insiders say the hue’s understated elegance is a big part of its appeal, offering a modern alternative to loud or glittery finishes. Its neutral tone pairs easily with any wardrobe and makes accessories stand out — from simple rings to statement bracelets. Salons have reported rising demand for the look, with clients requesting dolphin-inspired manicures by name.

Whether you go for a minimalist glossy grey or add a magnetic shimmer for extra dimension, the Dolphin Skin trend is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about nail styles of the year — combining subtle charm with celeb-driven cachet.