

Six of the best

Ingredients to look out for:

- Vitamin E:** fat-soluble antioxidant that is important for tissue repair, to promote healthy skin.
- Vitamin C:** water-soluble antioxidant, most potent in combating free-radical formation (caused by pollution).
- Aloe Vera:** heals burns and wounds; stimulates cell regeneration, emollient, antibacterial and antiviral properties. Excellent for problem skin.
- Zinc:** helps to regulate the activity of oil glands, form collagen and heal wounds.
- SPF:** Cancer Research UK state that an SPF of 15 or above offers over 90 per cent protection against harmful rays.

We've put six moisturisers to the test...



Vitagel Age Defence Hydrator SPF15 £36, 0870 850 6655, www.skin-health.co.uk

The formula: Skin expert Dr Patrick Bowler developed this cream to attack the signs of ageing before they start. Potent anti-oxidants combine with Vitamins A, C and E to create the perfect make-up base, by hydrating and protecting from UV rays.

The verdict: I was a little concerned to use this as it looked like a very heavy cream and I suffer from quite oily skin but I was very surprised at the light, mousse-like texture. It also has an SPF of 15 which is always a plus as you can then use it under make up and not have to use greasy suntan lotion. My skin felt suitably moisturised and I even had comments on my visibly smoother skin.

Score: 4/5 **Tested by Sam, 47**

Decleor Flower Nectar Moisturising Cream £32.50, and Aromessence Neroli Oil, £36, 020 7313 8780, www.decleor.co.uk

The formula: Aquaporins hydrate the skin, while an anti-pollution plant active ingredient protects and replenishes. To be applied after Aromaessence Néroli Comforting Concentrate, an elixir of pure essential oils that soothes and relaxes the skin, as well as reinforcing and multiplying the moisturising properties of the cream.

The verdict: These are fantastic. Divine smell, bright packaging and miraculous effects. The oil feels lovely when applied to the skin and the moisturiser is light and absorbs well. My skin felt soothed and moisturised, and visibly plumper after a week – lots of people commented on how good my skin was looking. I was reluctant at first to use oil on my face as I have combination skin, but my skin never felt greasy and never looked better!

Score: 5/5 **Tested by Emma, 42**



Garnier Skin Naturals Nutritionist Regenerating Daily Moisturiser SPF15 for Normal/ Combination skin £7.99, 0845 070 8090, www.garnier.co.uk

The formula: Enriched with omega fatty acids and magnesium, this refreshing cream is designed to provide the skin with the nutrients it needs most, while offering SPF protection.

The verdict: The green colour-coding is useful to ascertain which range is most suitable. It benefits from a subtle, fresh perfume, with hints of rose. The consistency is nice and thick but does feel a little greasy. However, it does sink in well, and skin isn't greasy to touch. It feels a little heavy at first, but skin did feel suitably 'treated'.

Score: 3.5/5 **Tested by Nancy, 36**



Estée Lauder Day Wear Plus £28, 0870 034 2444, www.esteeauder.com

The formula: Supercharged with anti-oxidants such as Vitamins C and E, with pure white tea and grape seed. SPF 15 provides protection that is gentle enough to wear through the night and day without irritation.

The verdict: The timeless Estée Lauder packaging is classic and feminine, and the scent is gorgeous, really fresh and sweet, but not overpowering. The cream is very smooth and moisturising but not at all oily. My skin immediately felt smoother, as it sunk in very quickly. It remained soft and velvety all day, and looked visibly refined in a week, I've already replaced my usual moisturiser with it.

Score: 5/5 **Tested by Georgia, 22**



Elemis Pro-Collagen £75, 01278 727830, www.elemis.com

The formula: Marine-based anti-ageing cream, containing vitamins E and C to eliminate the toxic cell degeneration. Also contains Padina Pavonica, a purified extract of algae which stimulates cell renewal and improves the skin's defences.

The verdict: Simple yet supremely classy packaging. The smell is quite overpowering, as though heavily perfumed, but actually this is down to the natural extracts in it. The cream is thick and smooth, and left my skin feeling very moisturised and noticeably plumper after just a week.

Score: 4/5 **Tested by Daniella, 52**

Körner Skincare Radiate Presence Day Cream £60, 020 7349 8652, www.kornerskincare.com

The formula: Plant, marine and mineral extracts combine with aromatic essential oils and the Körner signature ingredient, K6, to combat sun damage and ageing. Contains shea butter, sunflower seed oil and rosemary leaf extract.

The verdict: I disliked the unnecessarily complicated packaging. It was difficult to get into the box, then took a few minutes to work out how to open the pot. But the cream smelt really lovely. It feels very nice when applied and my skin felt smooth but not moisturised, instead rather tight. I probably wouldn't use it again.

Score: 2/5 **Tested by Claire, 35**



Photos: Scott Winterberg

And another key buy:

md formulations Moisture Defense Antioxidant Hydrating Gel £34.50, 0870 850 6655, www.skin-health.co.uk

This Oil-free gel, formulated to treat oily and ageing skin, contains Hyaluronic acid to attract and bind moisture. Powerful antioxidants from green tea extracts smooth the skin and treat blemishes. Worn under moisturiser it will reduce shine on the t-zone and limit imperfections without drying the skin out.

