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BEAUTY · UPDATED NOVEMBER 2026

Skincare guide

From dermatologist favourites at the drugstore to luxury creams, we compared popular face moisturisers by skin type and texture, so you can find one that suits your skin.

The 10 at a glance

#	Cream	Best for	Skin type	Texture
1	CeraVe Moisturizing Cream	Best overall	Dry to normal	Rich cream
2	La Roche-Posay Toleriane Double Repair Face Moisturizer	Best everyday cream	Normal to dry	Light cream
3	First Aid Beauty Ultra Repair Cream	Best for dry skin	Dry, sensitive	Thick cream
4	Vanicream Daily Facial Moisturizer	Best for sensitive skin	Sensitive	Light cream
5	Kiehl's Ultra Facial Cream	Best for combination skin	Combination	Light cream
6	Belif The True Cream Aqua Bomb	Best for oily skin	Oily, combination	Gel cream
7	Olay Regenerist Micro-Sculpting Cream	Best anti-ageing value	Normal, mature	Rich cream
8	Clinique Moisture Surge 100H	Best hydrating gel	All skin types	Gel cream
9	Cetaphil Moisturizing Cream	Best value	Dry to very dry	Rich cream
10	SkinCeuticals Triple Lipid Restore 2:4:1	Best luxury	Mature, dry	Rich cream

Quick answers

Do I need a moisturiser if I have oily skin?

Usually, yes. Oily skin can still be dehydrated. A light gel or oil-free lotion adds moisture without feeling heavy.

What's the difference between a cream and a lotion?

Creams are thicker and richer, so they suit dry skin. Lotions and gels are lighter and suit oily or combination skin.

How to choose a face cream

Match your moisturiser to your skin

Most people's skin changes with the seasons, so you may need two.

Dry	Oily	Combination	Sensitive
Feels tight or flaky	Shiny by midday	Oily T-zone, drier cheeks	Reacts easily
Rich cream	**Gel or lotion**	**Light cream**	**Fragrance-free**

1 Know your skin type

Notice how your skin feels a few hours after washing. Tight means dry, shiny means oily, and a mix of both means combination.

2 Look for helpful ingredients

Ceramides support the skin barrier, while hyaluronic acid and glycerin draw in moisture. Niacinamide can help with redness and uneven tone.

3 Choose the right texture

Rich creams suit dry skin, while gels and light lotions suit oily skin. A lighter texture in the day and a richer one at night works for many people.

4 Go fragrance-free if you react

Fragrance is one of the most common causes of irritation. If your skin is sensitive, look for fragrance-free formulas.

5 Add SPF in the day

Sun protection is the best anti-ageing step there is. Use a moisturiser with SPF, or put sunscreen on top in the morning.

6 Patch test and give it time

Try a new cream on a small area for a few days first. Give it a few weeks before you judge the results.

Your checklist

Tick things off as you go.

KNOW YOUR SKIN

- [ ] Dry, oily, combination or sensitive?
- [ ] Note any reactions to past products
- [ ] Check how skin changes with seasons

MORNING ROUTINE

- [ ] Gentle cleanser
- [ ] Serum (optional)
- [ ] Moisturiser
- [ ] Sunscreen SPF 30 or higher

NIGHT ROUTINE

- [ ] Remove make-up and sunscreen
- [ ] Gentle cleanser
- [ ] Treatment (optional)
- [ ] Moisturiser or richer night cream

TRYING SOMETHING NEW

- [ ] Patch test for a few days
- [ ] Introduce one product at a time
- [ ] Give it 3 to 4 weeks
- [ ] See a dermatologist for ongoing problems

See the full list online

All 10, with pros and cons and who each one suits.

pickwiseguides.com/beauty/face-creams

Open the list