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SKIN CARE

16 Skin Care Products Under \$30 Derms Use Themselves

Your best skin without breaking the bank.

By Allie Hogan, Senior Beauty Editor · Published: Mar 21, 2024



We've all seen dermatologists advocate for pricey medical-grade skin care or luxe seemingly unattainable launches, but we're not all working with a doctor's budget. While we love indulging in expensive skin care from time to time, the products in your local drugstore or Ulta Beauty can often be just as effective as those with higher price tags. We asked dermatologists what skin care products under \$30 they love and use themselves, and if an item passes their test, it's bound to be amazing.

Under \$30 skin care dermatologists love

1/16

Vaseline Petroleum Jelly (\$5)

New York dermatologist Heidi Waldorf, MD dubs Vaseline the best multifunction product under \$30. "It's a moisturizer, makeup remover, wound healer, lip balm, cuticle protector and barrier to prevent blisters. I take it everywhere," she says.



2/16

L'Oréal Bright Reveal 12 Percent Niacinamide Dark Spot Serum (\$30)

New York dermatologist Michelle Henry, MD loves this brightening serum that visibly improves dark spots, post-acne marks and other imperfections.



3/16

Avene Cicalfate+ Restorative Protective Cream (\$28)

Miami dermatologist Dr. Deborah Longwill loves Avene's iconic restorative cream. It restores the skin barrier and reduces discomfort rapidly using a unique postbiotic extract.



4/16

La Roche-Posay Pigmentclar Brightening Deep Cleanser (\$27)

Dr. Henry loves this anti-aging cleanser. Micro-exfoliating lip-hydroxy acid and other stellar ingredients help remove impurities and brighten skin.



5/16

Dove Beauty Bar – Original (\$2) & Dove Deep Moisture Body Wash (\$7)

“I love the white bar of Dove soap or the Dove white creamy body wash (either the original or the one for sensitive skin),” New York dermatologist **Jody Levine, MD** says. “Washing with a moisturizing, non-irritating soap is an important first step in proper skin care.”



6/16

Caudalie Vinoclean Gentle Foaming Cleanser (\$30)

Dr. Waldorf loves this sulfate-free cleanser that’s even gentle around the eyes. It “removes makeup and leaves skin feeling soft. An added bonus is being able to refill the travel-sized bottle from the regular size for that airy foam clean while traveling.”



7/16

CeraVe Deep Hydration Moisturizing Cream (\$17)

Miami dermatologist Anna Chacon, MD says this is one of the top skin care products under \$30 that she uses. “This cream is highly affordable and is known for its effectiveness in providing 24-hour hydration.” Plus, it’s non-comedogenic, so it’s great for any skin type, from acne-prone to sensitive.



8/16

La Roche-Posay Lipikar AP+M Triple Repair Body Moisturizer for Dry Skin (\$20)

Dr. Waldorf says she uses this all-around great moisturizer on both face and body. “With shea butter, glycerin and niacinamide, it calms, pulls in moisture and seals it in.”



9/16

FixMySkin 1% Hydrocortisone Healing Body Balm (\$21)

Omaha, NE dermatologist Joel Schlessinger, MD says this is his “number one must-have affordable product.” It “soothes and heals skin irritations from eczema, bug bites, seborrheic dermatitis, poison ivy, chapped dry skin and allergic reactions.” He says everyone, from kids to seniors, can benefit from this easy-to-apply balm.



10/16

Neutrogena Liquid Neutrogena (\$10)

“I like the clear soap from Neutrogena for washing my face,” says West Palm Beach, FL dermatologist Kenneth Beer, MD. He prefers it to other liquids and notes that it’s not irritating to his sensitive skin.



11/16

Vanicream Shampoo & Conditioner (\$13 each)

Dr. Schlessinger recommends this gentle set for those experiencing scalp sensitivities from allergies, irritants, psoriasis or eczema. “I love that it’s free of dyes, fragrances and lanolin, making it suitable for sensitive skin.”



12/16

ZO Skin Exfoliating Cleanser (\$20)

Montclair, NJ dermatologist Jeanine B. Downie, MD tells us she uses this exfoliating cleanser once a week in the winter and twice a week in the summer.



13/16

FixMySkin 1% Hydrocortisone Healing Lip Balm – Vanilla (\$14)

“This medicated lip balm is my go-to for treating and healing chapped or cracked lips due to cold weather exposure, medications like Accutane and more,” says Dr. Schlessinger. “It’s petrolatum-free too, so it has a nice ‘slip’ on the lips and goes on smoothly.”



14/16

Doctor’s Daughter Skincare The One Face & Body Acne Wash (\$22)

Dr. Longwill recommends this soap-free multi-tasking benzoyl peroxide-based cleanser for preventing future breakouts and cleansing acne-prone skin on both the face and body.



15/16

Environ Hyaluronic Acid Rose Collagen Facial Mask (\$12)

New York dermatologist Anetta Reszko, MD says this is her favorite product under \$30. “It utilizes a combination of hyaluronic acid to hydrate and plump the skin, collagen to restore elasticity and firmness, niacinamide to calm and brighten, and rosehip oil to improve skin texture and enhance collagen production,” she explains. The result is revitalized, hydrated and glowing skin.



16/16

Plastic Surgery & Dermatology Moisture Life Hypoallergenic Cream (\$30)

This cream “is a light, silky moisturizer that boosts a combination of vitamins A, C, E, Co-Q10 and green tea extract, delivering rich moisturization with anti-aging benefits at an affordable price,” says **Dr. Levine**.

