

15 Best Sunscreens for Acne-Prone Skin, According to Experts

Because wearing sunscreen daily is a must.



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If you've heard it once, you've heard it a million times: wear your sunscreen. Along with protecting the skin against harmful sun rays that could potentially lead to cancer, applying sunscreen (and reapplying as directed) can help improve acne-prone skin's condition. "One effect of the sun is damage to the skin's outer protective barrier," which can lead to moisture loss," board-certified general and cosmetic dermatologist [Dr. Rachel Westbay](#) tells *Seventeen*. When acne-prone skin is dehydrated, the skin increases oil production to compensate for the lack of moisture. And this is a recipe for disaster since we know that acne forms when the skin's follicles are clogged. And if that wasn't enough of an incentive, exposure to UV rays can "prolong the normal timeframe it takes for the redness and dark marks to fade naturally," Dr. Westbay adds. The best sunscreens for acne-prone skin protect against UV light, which triggers inflammation, "an already existing problem for acne-prone " skin.

"Acne is an inflammatory skin condition, and inflammation in the skin and UV exposure do not mix well," board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Anthony Rossi](#) adds. "This combination can lead to post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, aka dark spots that make people really unhappy with their skin complexion. These dark spots can sometimes be worse than the acne itself because it lingers for quite some time." And that's the ultimate faux pas for anyone looking to keep post-pimple blemishes at bay.

The quest for the best sunscreen can be tricky when you have [acne-prone skin](#). Inflammation and clogged pores can often trigger painful breakouts, so board-certified dermatologist Dr. Marina Peredo has a list of ingredients she suggests looking out for when sunscreen shopping. "Ingredients such as zinc oxide, lactic acid, and niacinamide are great for acne-prone skin and won't cause further breakouts," Dr. Peredo explains. On the other hand, Dr. Westbay advises against sunscreens with pore-clogging ingredients like lanolin, cocoa butter, coconut oil, mineral oil, and squalene" because they can trigger breakouts. Dr. Rossi agrees and recommends "physical sunblocks that contain active ingredients such as titanium or zinc dioxide" as "they are less irritating."

As you start your quest for protection from the sun that won't trigger breakouts and irritate hyperpigmentation, read ahead for the 15 best sunscreens to help acne-prone skin shine bright.

1

Best for Oily Skin

CLEAR Ultra-Light Daily Hydrating Fluid SPF 30+



\$37 AT PAULASCHOICE.COM

Tired of sunscreens leaving a greasy film? Paula's Choice has you covered. According to Dr. Westbay, "It also contains soothing plant-derived antioxidants and hydrators that help reduce the appearance of enlarged pores as well as help smooth and calm skin to minimize flaking and dryness."

2

Best for Sensitive Skin

ILIA Super Serum Skin Tint Spf 40



\$48 AT ILIABEAUTY.COM

Beauty meets skincare with Ilia's Super Serum Skin Tint. Dr. Westbay swears by this tinted CC cream because "It features SPF 40 coverage with non-nano zinc oxide to help shield skin from UVA, UVB, UVC, blue light, and pollution and also has active levels of hyaluronic acid, plant-based squalane, and niacinamide to visibly improve how the skin looks as you wear it. Plus, it's silicone-free, fragrance-free, oil-free, and non-comedogenic." The tinted formula is a bonus for hiding acne hyperpigmentation.

3

Best Brush-On

Colorescience Sunforgettable Total Protection Brush-On Shield SPF 50



\$69 AT [COLORESCIENCE.COM](https://www.colorescience.com)

Reapplying sunscreen as directed is the only sure way to protect against the sun's harmful rays. Though it's a bit pricey, this brush-on, non-comedogenic powder can be applied (and re-applied) on the go, and it's small enough to fit in your smallest micro bag. Plus, Dr. Westbay raves over its anti-microbial brushes that prevent bacteria like mold and yeast from building up on the bristles.

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4

MM Skincare Sasha Suncare Tinted Mineral Sunscreen



\$42 AT MMSKINCARE.COM

This one's for the girlies that love a multipurpose product. Along with protecting against UV Rays, Dr. Westbay recommends the Sasha Suncare Tinted Mineral Sunscreen because "it's SPF 50, water resistant, fragrance free, and has skin-boosting benefits. It contains vitamin B to boost skin elasticity and caffeine to help brighten the skin."

5

Black Girl Sunscreen Broad Spectrum SPF 30



\$16 AT TARGET

Packed with natural ingredients, this moisturizing broad-spectrum sunscreen has SPF 30 and fights against hyperpigmentation and dark spots. Plus, it blends seamlessly into all skin tones.

6

Kinlò Golden Rays Sunscreen SPF 50+



\$20 AT KINLO.COM

Whether you're hitting the court like KINLO founder Naomi Osaka or chilling indoors, the Golden Rays sunscreen is non-comedogenic, lightweight, and doesn't clog pores.

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7

Pipette Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50



\$13 AT [PIPETTEBABY.COM](https://pipettebaby.com)

A durable, smooth SPF that's so safe that even babies can use it? Tell me more! Along with combating harmful sunrays, this family-friendly formula is infused with plant extracts that moisturize and calm skin.

8

Honest Self Defense Mineral Sunscreen Fluid SPF 34



\$30 AT HONEST

Jessica Alba's Honest Company is always going to come through with a clean beauty contender. Self Defense is infused with minerals that fight against blue light rays from all the screen time we indulge in.

9

Supergoop Unseen Sunscreen SPF 40



\$22 AT SUPERGOOP!

Silver, cakey finish? We don't know her. Supergoop!'s gel formula-infused sunscreen can also double as a daily makeup primer.

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10

Best to Wear Under Makeup

Glossier Invisible Shield



\$25 AT GLOSSIER

Glossier's Invisible Shield is a beauty go-to for a reason. Its lightweight water-gel formula feels less like a heavy sunscreen and more like a serum. Plus, it plays nice when you top it with makeup.

11

Best for Full Body

Native Sunscreen Body Sunscreen



\$20 AT NATIVECOS.COM

Native is known for creating clean alternatives for our beauty staples, so ofc, they've got sunscreen on deck. With non-nano zinc oxide acting as its only active ingredient, this sunscreen can be applied all over the body without leftover residue.

12

La Roche-Posay Anthelios Clear Skin Oil Free Sunscreen SPF 60



La Roche-Posay formulated the Anethelios Clear Skin Sunscreen with acne-prone skin in mind. Infused with a Cell-Ox Shield technology, the Anthelios Clear Skin Sunscreen absorbs excess oil and combats breakouts while it protects.

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13

EltaMD UV Clear Broad-Spectrum SPF 46



\$37 AT DERMSTORE

Here's the 411 on this doctor-approved beauty staple: Eltamad Skin's UV Clear Broad-Spectrum SPF 46 is infused with niacinamide, which reduces the appearance of blemishes. So not only will you get protection against the sun, but you can also get relief for skin conditions like rosacea, as well.

14

Best Moisturizer

Cetaphil Daily Facial Moisturizer SPF 50+



\$13 AT TARGET

This Cetaphil daily moisturizer is a clutch option if you're looking to simplify your beauty routine. You can get protection from the sun along with extra hydration. Sounds like the perfect two-in-one to me.