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Beauty / Skin Care

30 best face sunscreens you'll want to apply every day, according to dermatologists

By [Sophie Shaw](#), CNN Underscored
Published 10:39 AM EDT, Mon May 19, 2025



Sophie Shaw/CNN Underscored

Face sunscreen quick picks

- **Mineral face sunscreen:** [Andalou Naturals Daily Shade and Blue Light Defense Facial Lotion SPF 30](#)
- **Face sunscreen for dry skin:** [CeraVe AM Facial Moisturizing Lotion SPF 50](#)
- **Face sunscreen for acne-prone skin:** [EltaMD UV Clear Face Sunscreen SPF 46](#)
- **Face sunscreen for mature skin:** [SkinMedica Essential Defense Everyday Clear SPF 47](#)
- **Water-resistant face sunscreen:** [Supergoop! Play Everyday Lotion SPF 50](#)
- **Tinted face sunscreen:** [Colorescience Total Protection Face Shield Flex SPF 50](#)

While the [world of skin care](#) is highly personal, there's one step that dermatologists agree *everyone* should be doing: [applying sunscreen](#) to your face. [Practicing sun safety](#) is about finding the product that works for you — one that you'll actually apply (and reapply) daily and works with your lifestyle, whether that be a tinted formula that can double as [makeup](#) or a sweat-resistant lotion that will keep you protected [during workouts](#).

What's in this guide

- ↓ [Best mineral face sunscreen](#)
- ↓ [Best face sunscreen for dry skin](#)
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Deal of the Day
[Casper Hybrid Pillow](#)

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be prevented by staying out of the sun and wearing broad-spectrum sunscreen when you are exposed. That's why sunscreen is considered a drug in the US and you can [use your FSA dollars to buy it](#) — it reduces the risk of skin cancer. According to MRF, nine out of 10 cases of melanoma, the [deadliest form of skin cancer](#), are preventable. While [squamous cell carcinoma](#) and [basal cell carcinoma](#), the most common type of skin cancer, are less lethal, they may still require surgery and can be disfiguring.



Since your face is exposed to UV rays the most, finding a great face sunscreen that works with your skin and lifestyle is ultra-important. To help you find a new favorite formula, I asked dermatologists about their top picks. Here are the 30 they raved about, plus a few sunscreens I — a beauty editor who's tested over two dozen formulas — personally love too.

Best mineral face sunscreen

[Andalou Naturals Daily Shade and Blue Light Defense Facial Lotion SPF 30](#)



[Dr. Marisa Garshick](#), a board-certified dermatologist based in New York and New Jersey, loves this mineral sunscreen that is loaded with skin care ingredients and is recommended by the [Skin Cancer Foundation](#). “This mineral sunscreen contains zinc oxide and

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~~\$49~~ \$11 at Amazon

~~\$49~~ \$12 at Thrive Market

\$19 at Andalou

Supergoop! Mineral Unseen Sunscreen SPF 40



Sephora

Finding a mineral sunscreen that seamlessly blends into the skin can be tricky, but Crumm swears by this one that uses a mix of zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. "It's a weightless mineral option that works beautifully under makeup or on its own," he said. "It's great for daily wear and doesn't leave a greasy feel."

~~\$40~~ \$32 at Supergoop

\$40 at Dermstore

\$40 at Nordstrom

\$40 at Sephora

Isdin Eryfotona Actinica Daily Lightweight Mineral SPF 50+ Sunscreen



Amazon

Los Angeles-based board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Asmi Berry](#) recommends this sunscreen fluid that repairs and protects in one step. Along with zinc oxide, it contains patented DNA Repairsomes, which help improve existing sun damage.

From \$46 at Amazon

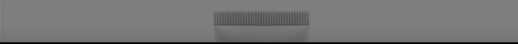
From \$46 at Sephora

~~\$79~~ \$58 at Isdin

\$73 at Dermstore

Editor Favorite

Lightsaver Tinted Activated Mineral Sunscreen SPF 33



[Dr. David Kim](#), board-certified dermatologist, recommends this

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Sephora

damage, niacinamide to help brighten and squalane to hydrate," Kim said.

\$45 at Lightsaver

\$45 at Sephora

Dr. Rossi Derm MD The Day Formula SPF 30



Dr. Rossi Derm MD

"Formulated with titanium dioxide and [niacinamide](#), this SPF 30 daily sunscreen protects skin from the effects of sun damage, including the risk of skin cancer and premature aging," said [Dr. Brendan Camp](#), a double board-certified dermatologist at MCDS Dermatology.

\$116 at Dr. Rossi Derm MD

Tizo Skin Ultra Zinc Body & Face Non-Tinted SPF 40



Amazon

"This is nice when you want a sunscreen that can double as a makeup primer," Berry said. It's infused with vitamin C and E for antioxidant benefits and is safe for sensitive skin.

From \$17 at Tizo Skin

\$45 at Amazon

\$45 at Walmart

EltaMD UV AOX Mist Mineral Sunscreen Spray SPF 40



Elta MD

"This mineral spray sunscreen leaves behind a sheer finish and also contains antioxidants to help protect against free radical damage," Garshick said. "It is lightweight and won't feel greasy while still leaving the skin feeling hydrated. It has a white-to-clear technology that makes it easy to see how much you're applying but then absorbs easily without a white cast."

~~\$46~~ From \$37 at Amazon

\$46 at FSA Store

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RELATED ARTICLE
31 best mineral sunscreens, according to dermatologists

Best face sunscreen for dry skin

CeraVe AM Facial Moisturizing Lotion SPF 50



Amazon

"This multitasker hydrates and protects [with ceramides](#) and hyaluronic acid, perfect for skin that needs moisture support all day," Crumm said. It's also a budget-friendly pick that you can easily pick up at the drugstore.

~~€20~~ **\$16 at Amazon**

\$16 at Walmart

\$16 at Target

\$20 at Ulta

Isntree Hyaluronic Acid Watery Sun Gel Sunscreen SPF 50+



Amazon

"This product has eight types of hyaluronic acid and is loved for how smoothly and seamlessly it blends into skin," Berry said of this [Korean sunscreen](#). It has a gel consistency that adds a layer of light hydration while protecting the skin.

~~€24~~ **\$18 at Olive Young**

\$20 at Amazon

~~€25~~ **\$23 at YesStyle**

Neutrogena Invisible Daily Defense Face Sunscreen + Hydrating Serum SPF 60



Garshick recommends this affordable option that "offers UV protection while also containing antioxidants to provide protection against environmental factors. It is lightweight and easy to apply." The oil-free serum is suitable for

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\$19 at Walgreens

Alastin Skincare HydraTint Pro Mineral Sunscreen SPF 36



Amazon

Board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Kseniya Kobets](#) of Montefiore Einstein Advanced Care in New York said this tinted sunscreen gives a nice glow to the skin while adding hydration. The multitasking product also comes in a bigger tube than other face sunscreens we've tried — 3.2 ounces! — so it'll last you a while (which helps justify the high price tag just a little bit).

\$79 at Alastin Skincare

\$82 at Amazon

Best face sunscreen for acne-prone skin

EltaMD UV Clear Face Sunscreen SPF 46



Dermstore

This is by far the most popular face sunscreen among dermatologists I've spoken to over the years, and Kobets and Berry said it's great for acne and rosacea-prone skin. It's a hybrid chemical and mineral sunscreen, featuring zinc oxide and octinoxate UV filters, that is oil-free and invisible on the skin. It also includes niacinamide to calm breakouts and lactic acid to help with skin texture.

From \$23 at Amazon

~~\$44~~ \$35 at Dermstore

\$44 at EltaMD

innisfree Daily UV Defense Mineral Sunscreen Broad Spectrum SPF 45



Board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Ellen Marmur](#) recommends this zinc oxide SPF in our guide to the [best Korean sunscreens](#). It's made for sensitive and acne-prone skin and even has a hint of a green tint to combat redness.

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Krave Beauty Beet The Sun SPF 40



Amazon

According to Crumm, this noncomedogenic sunscreen is a go-to for breakout-prone skin. "Lightweight, breathable and packed with antioxidants, this one won't clog pores or leave you greasy," he said.

[\\$20 at Amazon](#)

[\\$20 at Krave Beauty](#)

Dermologica Clear Start Clearing Defense SPF 30



Dermologica

"To reduce shine on oily and acne-prone skin, this SPF 30 daily SPF contains natural tapioca starch, as well as willow bark extract, green tea extract and vitamin C for antioxidant protection," Camp said.

[\\$30 at Amazon](#)

[\\$30 at Dermalogica](#)

[\\$30 at Ulta](#)

La Roche-Posay Anthelios Clear Skin Sunscreen Dry Touch SPF 60



Amazon

Berry recommends this sunscreen to her patients that have acne-prone and oily skin. "This sunscreen is oil-free, noncomedogenic and it stays matte even in heat and humidity," she said.

~~\$20~~ [From \\$15 at Walgreens](#)

[From \\$20 at Amazon](#)

[From \\$20 at Ulta](#)

[From \\$25 at Target](#)

Supergoop! Unseen Sunscreen SPF 40



The chemical version of the Unseen Sunscreen Crumm recommends, this clear gel is also dermatologist-

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From \$18 at Amazon

From \$18 at Nordstrom Rack

\$38 at Dermstore

\$38 at Bluemercury

Colorescience Sunforgettable Total Protection Brush-On Shield SPF 50



Amazon

This travel-friendly mineral sunscreen powder is great for makeup wearers, offering an easy way to nix shine throughout the day while also refreshing on SPF protection. It's a favorite of [Dr. Nazanin Saedi](#), board-certified dermatologist and clinical associate professor at Thomas Jefferson University, who said, "It's great for your face, hair line and, astonishingly, it's also water-resistant. After my morning sunscreen, I keep this on hand to help me reapply SPF throughout the day, especially when I'm spending the day outside."

From \$69 \$59 at Amazon

\$69 at Colorescience



RELATED ARTICLE

11 best sunscreens for acne-prone skin, according to dermatologists

Best sunscreen for mature skin

SkinMedica Essential Defense Everyday Clear SPF 47



Amazon

"A hybrid sunscreen, featuring chemical and mineral active ingredients, this SPF 47 sunscreen is paraben-free, hypoallergenic, oil-free and fragrance-free," Camp said. It's sensitive skin-friendly, so it's a good choice for those that have an anti-aging regimen full of other skin care actives, such as retinol and vitamin C.

\$40 at Amazon

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Editor Favorite

Medik8 Advanced Day Ultimate Protect SPF 50+ PA++++



Medik8

I've been loving this SPF that features ectoin, [a powerhouse anti-aging ingredient](#) that dermatologists recommend for mature skin. Ectoin guards the skin from environmental stressors and helps support the skin barrier, which goes hand-in-hand with the protective qualities of SPF. It has a hydrating feel and can double as your daytime moisturizer too.

\$59 at Medik8

\$59 at Dermstore

Doctor Babor Protect RX Mineral Sunscreen SPF 30



Amazon

"This is a mineral-based sunscreen that feels light, is not at all greasy and won't leave a white sheen," said Saedi. "It contains moisturizing ingredients that will leave your skin feeling well hydrated." These include soothing bisabol and antioxidant beta-carotene.

~~\$53~~ From \$40 at Amazon

\$53 at Nordstrom

\$53 at Bloomingdale's

\$53 at Macy's

Sonage Roux Tinted Day Creme With SPF 30



Sonage

Another SPF and moisturizer in one, Saedi recommends this formula when we asked her about the [best skin care routine for the 40+ crowd](#). The tint helps even out the skin tone, while the ceramides, peptides and niacinamide provide anti-aging benefits.

\$64 at Amazon

\$60 at Sonage

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Best water-resistant face sunscreen

[La Roche-Posay Anthelios UV Pro-Sport Sunscreen SPF 50](#)



Amazon

"This is a no-nonsense, high-performance sunscreen designed for active days," Crumm said. "It's water- and sweat-resistant for up to 80 minutes, absorbs quickly and won't run into your eyes when you're breaking a sweat. It's perfect for outdoor workouts or beach days when you need reliable coverage that stays in place."

~~\$\$\$~~ \$25 at Walmart

\$33 at Amazon

\$33 at La Roche-Posay

\$33 at Ulta

[Supergoop! Play Everyday Lotion SPF 50](#)



Nordstrom

Camp and Berry recommend this face and body sunscreen that's great for outdoor activities and workouts. The sweat- and water-resistant formula is noncomedogenic and doesn't feel sticky.

~~\$24~~ From \$19 at Supergoop

From \$24 at Amazon

From \$24 at Sephora

From \$24 at Nordstrom

[La Roche-Posay Anthelios Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50](#)



Kobets said this mineral sunscreen initially goes on white but then absorbs clear. It can be used on the face and body, offers up to 80 minutes of water resistance and is safe for sensitive skin.

\$26 at CVS

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Amazon

"If I'm spending a day at the pool, chances are I have Sun Bum sunscreen in my bag," Saedi said. "This one is made for the face and is water-resistant for 80 minutes. It's fragrance-free, water-based, very lightweight and good for both sensitive and acne-prone skin types."

Save \$16 \$14 at Amazon

\$15 at Walmart

\$15 at Ulta

\$15 at Nordstrom Rack



RELATED ARTICLE

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Best tinted face sunscreen

Editor Favorite

Colorescience Total Protection Face Shield Flex SPF 50



Dermstore

Berry recommends this color-shifting tinted SPF and I'm a personal fan too. The unique formula comes out of the bottle white, but then adapts to your skin tone as you blend it in. More than just a gimmick, you get broad-spectrum protection and a medium-coverage tint that enhances the complexion.

Read our review

\$58 at Amazon

\$58 at Nordstrom

\$58 at Dermstore

\$58 at Colorescience

CeraVe Hydrating Mineral Sunscreen With Sheer Tint SPF 30

Kobets said this drugstore pick "has the perfect touch of hydration, tint and

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Amazon

\$14 at Target

\$14 at Walmart

\$17 at Ulta

EltaMD UV AOX Elements Broad-Spectrum SPF 50



Amazon

Another EltaMD favorite among our experts, Crumm and Berry love this tinted mineral formula. It evens the complexion, adds a bit of hydration with hyaluronic acid and provides antioxidant protection with vitamins C and E, on top of the mineral UV filters.

~~\$45~~ \$36 at Amazon

~~\$45~~ \$36 at Dermstore

\$45 at EltaMD

Isdin Eryfotona Ageless Tinted Mineral Sunscreen SPF 50



Amazon

Camp is a fan of this tinted sunscreen from Isdin, which is made with a blend of peptides, antioxidants and those aforementioned DNA Repairsomes. According to the dermatologist, it has an "ultralight" feel and can help reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

From \$50 at Amazon

From \$50 at Sephora

From \$50 at Dermstore

~~\$78~~ \$62 at Isdin



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How to choose the best SPF for your face

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said, "Although some studies have shown that chemical sunscreens can be absorbed into the bloodstream, it does not necessarily mean the ingredients are unsafe or that the amount that is absorbed is enough to cause problems or concerns, so further research is needed. For this reason,

the FDA recommends either type of sunscreen in conjunction with [other sun-protective measures](#)."

Just keep in mind that you should opt for broad-spectrum coverage of SPF 30 protection or higher. The type of formula you choose can be tailored to your skin type too. Camp said to go with a hydrating sunscreen with hyaluronic acid or ceramides if you have dry skin. Oil-free, matte or gel-based SPF's are suitable for oily or acne-prone skin, according to Crumm. "Your sunscreen should feel like a seamless part of your routine, not a chore," Crumm said.

FAQs

The following FAQs have been answered by board-certified dermatologists Dr. Asmi Berry, Dr. Brendan Camp and Dr. Marisa Garshick, as well as celebrity esthetician Ian Michael Crumm.

[Expand all](#)

What is the difference between chemical and physical sunscreen?	▼
When do you need to wear SPF?	▼
Which is better: zinc oxide or titanium dioxide face sunscreen?	▼
What is the best face sunscreen for older skin?	▼

Meet our experts

For this article, we consulted the following experts to gain their professional insights.

- [Dr. Asmi Berry](#), board-certified dermatologist and beauty biohacker in Los Angeles
- [Dr. Brendan Camp](#), double board-certified dermatologist at MDCS Dermatology in New York
- [Ian Michael Crumm](#), celebrity esthetician
- [Dr. Marisa Garshick](#), a board-certified dermatologist based in New York and New Jersey
- [Dr. David Kim](#), board-certified dermatologist and founder of [Lightsaver](#)
- [Dr. Kseniya Kobets](#), board-certified dermatologist at Montefiore Einstein Advanced Care in New York
- [Dr. Ellen Marmur](#), board-certified dermatologist, dermatologic surgeon, founder of [Marmur Medical](#) and clinical professor at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- [Dr. Nazanin Saeedi](#), board-certified dermatologist and clinical associate professor at Thomas Jefferson University

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loves getting nerdy about skin care and, on the fashion side, delving into what viral trends are actually worth trying. (Ballet flats are a yes for her, but low-rise pants are a never.)

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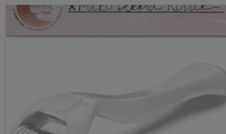
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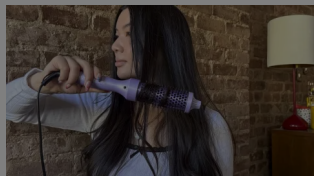
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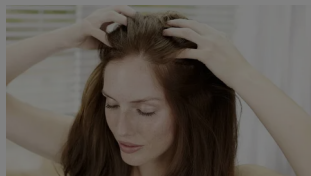
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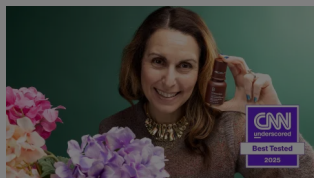
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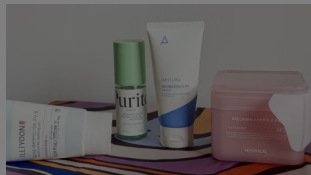
We tested 8 moisturizers for dry skin. Our favorite is a \$17 drugstore cream



20 editor-favorite sunscreens that actually make us want to put on SPF



41 premium beauty



The 42 best Korean beauty



This Vitamin C face serum

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We use cookies on our website to improve your browsing experience. We, our [affiliates](#), and our **47** partners store and access personal information on your device such as browsing data to gain insight into how the site is being used. You can control your cookie preferences at any time by clicking on the 'Manage Preferences' button.

We and our partners process data to provide:

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