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BYRDIE VERIFIED★

These Are the 12 Best Anti-Aging Serums That Gave Testers Smooth, Glowing Skin

Target dark spots, fine lines, dullness, and more.

written by [LAUREN LEVINSON](#) UPDATED ON SEPTEMBER 09, 2026 02:47PM

2 COMMENTS





TL;DR

- **Best Overall:** Our top pick, [Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair](#), won us over with its silky texture, rapid absorption, and potent blend of hyaluronic acid and peptides that left the skin plumper and smoother overnight.
- **Fan-Favorite Retinol:** If you want a retinol that really works without the steep price tag, the [La Roche-Posay's Retinol B3 Serum](#) is gentle yet effective for improving texture, tone, and

When I turned [40](#), I started analyzing my face with even more scrutiny. After over a decade working in beauty, I've been schooled on how to take meticulous care of my skin—and have been proactive about it for years ([sunscreen](#) always, [vitamin C](#), all the things). Still, I notice gradual changes that have me reaching for the most potent formulas to help slow the clock. We can embrace the privilege of aging while also not loving all of the physical changes that come with it. “I view anti-aging not simply as a way to slow down aging, but as a process of helping the skin maintain its own healthy state,” says board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Jae Yong Ban](#). If you'd like to soften the signs of aging, noninvasive products can help. “Anti-aging serums have been proven to help reduce the signs of aging by lessening fine lines and [wrinkles](#), fading [sunspots](#), and tightening sagging skin,” says board-certified plastic surgeon [Dr. Sheila Malek Kassir](#), M.D.

To find the best anti-aging serums available, a group of mature testers and I [tested](#) dozens of highly rated formulas over eight weeks, evaluating consistency, absorption, effectiveness, and overall results. Here are the serums that impressed us most.

Top Picks

BEST OVERALL:

SALE [Estée Lauder Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair at Amazon | ~~\\$135~~ \\$102](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST BUDGET-FRIENDLY:

[The Ordinary GF 15% Serum for Visible Skin Repair and Wrinkles at Amazon | \\$16](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST FOR WRINKLES:

[Murad Retinal ReSculpt Overnight Treatment at Amazon | \\$109](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST RETINOL:

[La Roche-Posay Retinol B3 Retinol Serum at Amazon | \\$45](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST DRUGSTORE:

[No7 Protect & Perfect Serum at Amazon | \\$28](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST FOR FINE LINES:

[medicube NAD EGF Firming Serum at Amazon | \\$22](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST FOR NECK LINES:

[Lancôme Advanced Génifique Youth Activating Concentrate at Amazon](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST PLUMPING:

[Clarins Double Serum Firming at Amazon | \\$142](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST FOR SENSITIVE SKIN:

[Dieux Skin Deliverance Soothing Trinity Serum at Sephora | \\$62](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST BRIGHTENING:

[SkinCeuticals A.G.E. Interrupter Ultra Serum at Dermstore | \\$185](#)

↓ [Jump to Review](#)

BEST OVERALL

Estée Lauder Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair

 [Estée Lauder Advanced Night Repair Face Serum](#)

Credit: Amazon

~~\$135~~
\$102 at Amazon

\$85 at Sephora

\$88 at Ulta

What We Like

- Helps smooth the appearance of fine lines

- Makes skin feel soft and plump
- Layers nicely with other skincare products

What to Consider

- Some online reviewers note a bit of a funny smell

Key Ingredients: Hyaluronic acid, peptide | **Dosage:** A few drops twice daily | **Cruelty-Free:** No

Certain products stand the test of time, and this iconic, deeply hydrating [overnight serum](#) is one of them. Of all the products we tested, it secured the top spot thanks to its ideal texture and potent ingredients. We're talking water-loving [hyaluronic acid](#), antioxidants, and the brand's patented peptides, which smooth fine lines and improve collagen production^[1].

Our tester, who has [combination skin](#) that's also sensitive, was looking to combat seasonal dryness and a loss of firmness. He raved about the serum's silky texture and how quickly it absorbs: "It's like my skin is drinking water," he shared, adding that results were noticeable right away. He experienced firmer, brighter, and plumper skin. It glides on effortlessly, doesn't pill, and layers seamlessly with other products (even [retinol](#); though always check with your dermatologist if you have any concerns). Bonus points for the chic, dark glass bottle that looks great on your vanity and a dropper that dispenses *just* the right amount every time.



Site Loop: Person's face before and after using x Estee Lauder Advanced Night Repair Synchronized Multi-Recovery Complex Serum product.

Alfredo, tester age 40-44: “I used this product consistently without fail, and I noticed a difference in my skin firmness, brightness, plumpness, and hydration. I also got compliments—some assumed that I had retouched my Botox (which I hadn’t!).”

BEST BUDGET-FRIENDLY

The Ordinary GF 15% Serum for Visible Skin Repair and Wrinkles

 The Ordinary GF 15% Serum for Visible Skin Repair and Wrinkles

Credit: The Ordinary

\$16 at Amazon

\$16 at Sephora

\$16 at Ulta

What We Like

- Effective, affordable option
- Smooths appearance of fine lines
- Layers well with other skincare products

What to Consider

- Texture is more lotion-like than a standard serum

Key Ingredients: Three different growth factors (EGF, IGF, and TGF) |

Dosage: A few drops twice daily | **Cruelty-Free:** Yes

If you're looking for an anti-aging serum at a super reasonable price point, I highly recommend this option from The Ordinary. Formulated with three different growth factor ingredients, it's meant to help the skin regenerate and improve the visible signs of aging. Trust me, it does. After just 10 days, I noticed an improvement in fine lines on my forehead.

I was taken aback by the lightweight, lotion-like texture at first, but I ended up appreciating it because it layered beautifully into my skincare routine without pilling or feeling too heavy. My skin felt smoother overall with consistent use.

 A person applies The Ordinary GF 15% Serum for Visible Skin Repair and Wrinkles to their face

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BEST FOR WRINKLES

Murad Retinal ReSculpt Overnight Treatment

 Ulta Murad Retinal ReSculpt Overnight Treatment

Credit: Ulta

\$109 at Amazon

\$105 at Sephora

\$105 at Ulta

What We Like

- Provides noticeable wrinkle-smoothing benefits quickly
- Smooths skin
- Not super drying

What to Consider

- Might not be ideal for retinol beginners

Key Ingredients: Encapsulated retinal, olive, oat, and alpha glucan | **Dosage:** Apply a thin layer at night | **Cruelty-Free:** Yes

Serums are not miracle workers that magically make you look 10 years younger, but if you're looking for one that provides some noticeable results quickly, this is the one for you. Powered by encapsulated retinol, which is potent yet gentle, it works to smooth fine lines and skin texture and improve firmness. After using it for just 10 days, our tester began to notice visible results. Her skin felt smoother, and she noted that her usually very dark [under-eye area](#) looked a bit brighter. She also appreciated the formula's lotion-like texture that didn't dry out her skin. Plus, it layered beautifully in her skincare routine without pilling or taking too long to absorb.

This stuff is potent, so if you have sensitive skin or are new to retinol, we recommend slowly incorporating it into your routine or opting for a gentler formula. But if you've been using retinol for a while and want a stronger over-the-counter option, this is a great choice.

 A person applies Murad Retinal ReSculpt Overnight Treatment to their face

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BEST RETINOL

La Roche-Posay Retinol B3 Retinol Serum

 La Roche-Posay Retinol Face Serum with
Vitamin B3

Credit: Amazon

\$45 at Amazon

\$47 at Ulta

\$45 at Dermstore

What We Like

- Retinol in the formula improves uneven skin texture
- Increases skin firmness
- Lightweight and fast-absorbing

What to Consider

- Could be better at addressing fine lines

Key Ingredients: Pure retinol, niacinamide, hyaluronic acid | **Dosage:** 3-4 drops nightly | **Cruelty-Free:** No

Retinol is a hero anti-aging ingredient, thanks to how effectively it increases cell turnover, smooths texture, and reduces dark spots, and this retinol serum from French pharmacy favorite La Roche-Posay is an excellent choice. It combines pure retinol, niacinamide, and hyaluronic acid to boost cell turnover, smooth uneven texture and tone, and keep the skin barrier

healthy and hydrated.

The formula is lightweight, fast-absorbing, and layers beautifully with the rest of your routine. After eight weeks of nightly use, our tester saw firmer, clearer skin with a noticeably smoother feel and fewer blemishes and dark spots. While fine lines didn't change dramatically in that time, longer use could reveal even more results, especially given the gentle, well-balanced formula. Considering that it's suitable for all skin types and relatively affordable compared to similar options, we can't recommend it enough.

 A person applies La Roche Posay B3 Pure Retinol Serum

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[Lauren Pardee](#), associate editorial director with dry skin, age 25-32: "What sets this serum apart is how gentle it feels (for retinol!) when using an appropriate amount. It doesn't dry my skin out to an insane degree like others can. After a few weeks of use, I noticed that it improved my skin texture and gave me a glowy complexion."

BEST DRUGSTORE

No7 Protect & Perfect Serum

 [No7 Protect & Perfect Intense Advanced Serum](#)

Credit: Ulta beauty

\$28 at Amazon

\$35 at Ulta

\$28 at Target

What We Like

- Accessible at the drugstore
- Actually minimizes fine lines
- Hydrating and brightening

What to Consider

- May need to build tolerance for sensitive skin

Key Ingredients: Peptide Duo, vitamin A (pro-retinol), hyaluronic acid, vitamin C, Salicylic Acid, hydrolyzed rice protein, botanical extracts (alfalfa, mulberry ginseng) | **Dosage:** 1-2 pumps once a day | **Cruelty-Free:** Yes

It's rare to find a product—especially a [drugstore gem](#)—that our tester wouldn't tweak in some way, so when we do, we stock up. That was exactly the case with this No. 7 serum. It's packed with a potent medley of skin-loving ingredients: collagen-stimulating peptides, cell-renewing retinol, antioxidant vitamins C and E, hydrating hyaluronic acid, and botanical boosters. For under \$30, this anti-aging blend won our tester's heart and noticeably improved her skin.

Though she often struggles with [redness](#) (on her forehead, chin, and around her nose) and age-related fine lines, this lightweight serum absorbed beautifully and helped blur away imperfections, even the stubborn wrinkles around her mouth. One standout feature is its ultra-hydrating yet featherweight texture: it glides on smoothly and dries down to a soft, powder-like finish. Bonus points for being odorless, non-pilling, and flake-free. Just note it's pretty potent, so those with sensitive skin may want to slowly build up a tolerance.



Site Loop: Person's face before and after using x No. 7 Protect & Perfect Intense Advanced Serum product.

Heidi, tester age 50-59: “Overall, the serum made my skin softer, more hydrated, and brighter with softened lines around my mouth.”

BEST FOR FINE LINES

medicube NAD EGF Firming Serum



Credit: Amazon

\$22 at Amazon

\$26 at Medicube.us

~~\$34~~
\$23 at Stylevana.com

What We Like

- Softens fine lines and gives skin a glow
- Affordable price point
- Fragrance-free

What to Consider

- Results are subtle and take time to build

Key Ingredients: NAD+, EGF peptide, collagen | **Dosage:** 2–3 drops morning and night | **Cruelty-Free:** No

This serum is “sneaky,” says our tester, in the best way possible. It doesn’t show immediate results; rather, it’s “quietly effective.” Translation: it actually works, but over time. Our tester used it religiously, a.m. and p.m., and after four weeks, she noticed a significant improvement in her forehead and neck lines. Plus, her skin appeared overall glowier.

It’s a unique formula because it has a red tint, which can help you ensure you apply it evenly. Once it’s on the skin, it absorbs seamlessly and layers well with other products (no stickiness, no pilling). The hydrating serum is fragrance-free and actually delivers results for an affordable price point, making it a no-brainer recommendation.



Site Loop: Person’s face before and after using medicube NAD EGF Firming Serum for Face & Neck.

Heidi, tester age 50-59: “When I compared my before and after photos, I noticed some softening of the fine lines on my neck and on the left side of my forehead. Overall, my skin had more of a glow.”

BEST FOR NECK LINES

Lancôme Advanced Génifique Youth Activating Concentrate



Lancôme Advanced Génifique Youth
Activating Concentrate

Credit: Ulta Beauty

View on Amazon

\$220 at Sephora

\$220 at Ulta

What We Like

- Tackles 10 anti-aging concerns, including fine lines
- Layers nicely with other skincare products
- Hydrates and softens skin

What to Consider

- It could work better in a pump bottle

Key Ingredients: Bifidus prebiotic, hyaluronic acid, vitamin C | **Dosage:** A few drops morning and night | **Cruelty-Free:** No

This is another iconic serum that's been beloved for decades. Since the aughts, this formula has been helping people tackle the "10 signs of aging," including everything from lack of radiance and fine lines to uneven skin texture and tone. Even though it's considered tried and true, we had to test it ourselves, of course.

What our reviewer, whose combination skin tends to lean dry, discovered is that it remains a high-quality formula that feels light, absorbs evenly, and offers significant hydration. She noticed line-smoothing results on her neck, even though it's not marketed as a [décolleté product](#). On her wish list? A pump bottle instead of a dropper since it's such a watery consistency.

 Site Loop: Person's face before and after using x Lancôme Advanced Génifique Youth Activating Concentrate product.

Ashley, tester age 35-39: “I noticed a big change [in fine lines] on my neck. The serum isn’t specifically for the neck, but I applied it there anyway and am happy with the results.”

BEST PLUMPING

Clarins Double Serum Firming

 [Clarins Double Serum Firming](#)

Credit: Sephora

\$142 at Amazon

\$142 at Sephora

\$142 at Ulta

What We Like

- Rich texture feels hydrating
- Makes skin look plump and dewy
- Great for incorporating into nighttime skincare routine

What to Consider

- Has a strong floral fragrance

Key Ingredients: Turmeric, Harungana extract, peptides | **Dosage:** A few drops 1-2 times daily | **Cruelty-Free:** No

According to Dr. Kassir, our skin loses elasticity and buoyancy as we age (starting in our 20s), so if you're looking for an anti-aging serum to give your skin a softer, more plump appearance and hydrated feel, it's important to find something that supports elasticity. This popular pick from Clarins is great because it's packed with peptides known to help plump and nourish the skin. The texture is rich and a bit oily, making it a hydrating formula that I preferred to use at night. I loved how it added a moisturizing layer to my winter skincare routine. It's worth noting that if you prefer a lighter serum, it comes in a [lighter version](#) (I used this for daytime!).

After using it consistently at bedtime, I woke up with dewier skin. While I didn't see any major changes in dark spots or fine lines, I still recommend it if you're looking for a plumping serum that offers a healthy dose of hydration.

 A person after applying Clarins Double Serum Light Texture to their face

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BEST FOR SENSITIVE SKIN

Dieux Skin Deliverance Soothing Trinity Serum

 Dieux Deliverance Soothing Trinity Serum

Credit: Dieux

\$62 at Sephora

\$62 at Dieuxskin.com

What We Like

- Lightweight, fast-absorbing, and nonirritating
- Improves skin brightness, texture, and plumpness
- Fragrance-free

What to Consider

- Bottle doesn't last super long

Key Ingredients: Peptides, antioxidants, niacinamide | **Dosage:** 1–2 pumps morning and night | **Cruelty-Free:** Yes

If you're looking for a workhorse of a product, our tester confirms this is it. We won't bury the lead: after just one month of consistent evening use, the serum faded dark spots and scarring while adding plumpness, radiance, and a smoother texture. Plus, the fragrance-free, non-comedogenic formula worked well for her sensitive skin.

It glides on as a lightweight, thin layer that feels comfortable (read: no

burning or stinging, but if you have sensitive skin, you can always patch test it first). “My skin drank the serum and absorbed it almost instantaneously,” our tester enthused. Her only warning: she went through a bottle in just a month, so expect to replace it quickly if you want to see those skin-enhancing results.

 Site Loop: Person's face before and after using Dieux Deliverance 3-in-1 Repair Serum.

Candice, tester age 35: “It does what it says, and I saw noticeable improvements. It also did not irritate my sensitive skin, which is a plus!”

BEST BRIGHTENING

SkinCeuticals A.G.E. Interrupter Ultra Serum

 SkinCeuticals A.G.E. Interrupter Ultra
Serum

Credit: SkinCeuticals

\$185 at Dermstore

\$185 at Lovelyskin.com

\$185 at Skintruth.com

What We Like

- Improves texture, brightness, and plumpness
- Immediate hydration and glow
- Dropper dispenses the perfect amount of product

What to Consider

- Lightly scented
- Takes a few minutes to absorb

Key Ingredients: Proxylane, fruit flavonoids, rhamnose, gentian root extract

| **Dosage:** 1 dropper once or twice daily | **Cruelty-Free:** No

This serum offers instant hydration and glow with skin-brightening benefits over time, our tester confirmed. That tracks, considering SkinCeuticals is known for its potent anti-aging serums. After one month of using it, our tester noticed smoother texture, especially around the corners of his eyes, more plump-looking skin, and visible brightness (including fading sunspots).

It's worth noting there's a subtle scent that fades quickly. After a few minutes, the serum completely absorbs, leaving behind no residue—only deeply nourished skin. In fact, our tester often replaced it with his moisturizer as it was *that* hydrating. “It looked like my post-Botox glow,” he gushed.



Site Loop: Person's face before and after using SkinCeuticals A.G.E. Interrupter Ultra Serum.

Alfredo, tester age 40-44: “I really enjoyed seeing the results from using this serum daily. I love the fact that my skin always has a healthy-looking glow now.”

BEST FIRMING

Caudalie Premier Cru Anti-Aging Serum

 [Caudalie Premier Cru Anti-Aging Serum](#)

Credit: Amazon

\$129 at Amazon

\$129 at Sephora

\$129 at Nordstrom

What We Like

- Great for skin tightening
- A little goes a long way
- Feels refreshing and smoothing on skin
- Layers well with other products

What to Consider

- May not be ideal for sensitive skin
- Has a mild fragrance

Key Ingredients: niacinamide, hyaluronic acid, grapeseed extract | **Dosage:** 1-2 drops morning and evening | **Cruelty-Free:** No

If “French-girl skin” is your vibe, this Caudalie serum delivers it in a bottle. It’s packed with a high concentration of hyaluronic acid, an instant skin-plumper, and [niacinamide](#), which is known for its calming and texture-improving properties. Add on antioxidants, such as grapeseed extract, and you’re on your way to that coveted Parisian radiance.

What our tester, who has “normal,” smooth skin and a penchant for “clean beauty,” loved most about it was the skin-tightening and hydrating benefits. We’re talking an instant “facelift” in a bottle. She noted the texture having a little weight to it, which felt nice as it penetrated deeply into the skin. It’s easy to layer under makeup and skincare, making it an excellent morning pick. It did, however, cause itching on her jawline, so for anyone with sensitive skin, it may be too potent.



Site Loop: Person’s face before and after using x Caudalie Premier Cru Anti-Aging Serum with Niacinamide and Hyaluronic Acid product.

Rachel, tester age 40-44: “My skin felt refreshed and a bit pulled back (in the best way!) after using the serum. It was like having a protective seal on the face.”

BEST IMMEDIATE RESULTS

Tatcha Longevity Serum



Credit: Tatcha

\$80 at Sephora

\$80 at Ulta

[View on Tatcha.com](#)

What We Like

- Instant glow and plumping effect
- Blurs fine lines
- Lightweight and hydrating
- Easy-to-use pump cap packaging

What to Consider

- Subtle scent

Key Ingredients: Japanese botanicals, bio-active lipids, prebiotic | **Dosage:** 1–2 pumps morning and/or night | **Cruelty-Free:** Yes

Expect a luxurious sensorial experience every time you use this gem from Tatcha. It offers instant gratification, thanks to a unique pearly texture with a lovely, subtle botanical scent. It's a little milky, a little dewy, and a little glossy. The pump dispenses the perfect amount that spreads evenly from the forehead down to the neck. I absolutely loved the way it made my face feel (hydrated, not tacky) and look (noticeably smoother, plumper). It gave me that coveted "glass skin" effect, softening both my skin and the appearance of fine lines.

That said, it doesn't feature super active ingredients (like acids and retinol), so it may not offer extreme, long-term results. Instead, it creates the ideal smooth base for makeup and other skincare products. I plan to use the bottle down to the very last drop.

 Site Loop: Person's face before and after using Tatcha The Longevity Serum.

What to Look for When Buying Anti-Aging Serums

A good anti-aging serum is also a multitasker, simultaneously reducing fine lines, sun spots, and sagging skin. In general, “look for ingredients that stimulate collagen and elastin production and encourage cell turnover, like retinoids, peptides, and growth factors,” says [Jolie De Feis](#), lead aesthetician at [Practise NYC](#). To determine which anti-aging serum is right for you, we suggest keeping the following factors in mind.

- **Skin Concerns:** First, consider what you’re hoping to achieve, be it smoother, brighter, or more hydrated skin. “Consumers should identify their primary skin concern and choose a product specifically formulated to address that concern,” says Dr. Ban.
- **Retinoids:** Dr. Kassir and board-certified dermatologist [Dr. Teresa Song](#), M.D., highly recommend looking for serums containing retinoids. “Retinoids stimulate collagen production, promote cell turnover, and improve skin texture. They are the family of products that contain vitamin A—the most powerful ingredient to help us stimulate the production of collagen and elastin in our skin,” says Dr. Kassir. Dr. Song

notes that the powerful ingredient can improve pigmentation, skin texture, and clogged pores that contribute to acne.

- **Peptides:** “Peptides are a game changer,” Dr. Kassir says. “These amino acids can help improve skin firmness and elasticity by stimulating collagen production.”
- **Antioxidants:** According to Dr. Song, antioxidants like vitamin C, vitamin E, and green tea extracts “can help neutralize free radicals, which contribute to skin aging and damage from UV radiation.”
- **Hyaluronic Acid:** “Hyaluronic acid is another hero must-have in every skin routine,” says Dr. Kassir. “This is a humectant that attracts and retains moisture in the skin, helping to plump and hydrate, reducing the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.”
- **Clinical Testing:** “If you’re trying to assess before making a purchase, the best thing to do is to see if the brand has done clinical studies on the actual product,” says De Feis. An ingredient itself may have clinical evidence behind it, but that doesn’t necessarily mean the finished formula has been shown to produce the same results. Look at “before” and “after” photos, encourages De Feis.

How We Tested Anti-Aging Serums



A person applies Clarins Double Serum Firming & Smoothing Anti-Aging Concentrate to their face

Here is exactly how our team of editors and contributors evaluated more than 30 serums over several eight-week periods to determine our top picks.

- **Consistency:** The feel of an anti-aging serum can make or break whether you will use it consistently, so it's important to pick one you like. We noted which serums were runny or thick, how they felt on our skin, and how much product was needed to cover our whole face. We also observed how well each serum layered under our other skincare products and makeup.
- **Absorption:** The time it takes for an anti-aging serum to fully absorb into the skin is another essential factor in determining whether you will use the product consistently—we know you have things to do! As such, we paid attention to how long it took for each serum to sink into our skin, docking points if they felt tacky, tight, or sticky.
- **Effectiveness:** While an anti-aging serum will never totally turn back the clock, a visible change is possible over time. To track if each product lived up to its claims, we noted if our skin's texture looked and felt more plump and supple post-testing.

- **Overall Results:** When we saw great results from an anti-aging serum, we said something. We made sure to track general improvements (or setbacks) in our skin when using each serum, as well as whether the formula was irritating in any way.

FAQ

When should you start using an anti-aging serum?

The effects of sun exposure often begin to surface in your 20s and 30s, which is why Dr. Song suggests starting an anti-aging serum during these pivotal decades. Dr. Kassir agrees, noting that collagen production starts decreasing in our 20s. But if you're already seeing physical signs of aging in your skin, it's not too late to start using these potent serums. They can help reduce the appearance of already present concerns. "I do not believe there is ever a 'too late' age to begin anti-aging care," says Dr. Ban. So if today is day one, you're on the right track.

When should you apply anti-aging serums?

Don't go rogue; follow instructions closely. "It depends on the product and what else is being used, but generally just stick to the classic logic of thinnest to thickest with serums," explains De Feis. "Always read the instructions on the bottle in case there are specific application guidelines."

Try not to skip the evening application. While many anti-aging serums can be applied morning and night, they're typically most effective while you get your [beauty sleep](#). "It's best to apply at night after you've cleansed and toned your skin, but before you moisturize," says Dr. Kassir. "This way, those active ingredients can really get to work deep down into your skin overnight."

Who shouldn't use anti-aging serums?

As is true with all skincare products, not every anti-aging serum is for everyone. If you're pregnant or breastfeeding, it's recommended to avoid using products containing retinol. If you have sensitive or dry skin, you should also be careful about using serums with retinol or high concentrations of active ingredients. Instead, be sure to choose something that's gentle and contains hydrating ingredients. And talk to your healthcare provider about any

concerns.

How long does an anti-aging serum take to work?

Consistent use for at least a month, if not two to three months, will deliver the best results; as noted, follow the serum's instructions. And be patient.

"Nothing happens overnight, so switching or stopping too soon will never give you the results you're looking for," says De Feis. "Anything that's stimulating change below the surface takes about 8-12 weeks to start showing visible change."

Can you use multiple anti-aging serums at once?

Yes and no. It depends on the serum's ingredients, how active it is, and your skin type. "One of the most common mistakes is using too many active skincare products at the same time without considering the skin's condition," explains Dr. Ban. The best way to determine if a serum is working for you is to test one at a time. That said, many people use a vitamin C serum in the morning and an anti-aging serum at night. Talk with your healthcare provider about any concerns when it comes to cocktail serums.

Meet Our Experts

We spoke to experts to discuss important things to consider when purchasing anti-aging serums. Those experts included:

- Dr. Sheila Malek Kassir, M.D., is a German board-certified plastic surgeon and co-founder of Kassir Plastic Surgery and Inside Beauty Spa.
- Dr. Teresa Song, M.D., is a New York City-based board-certified dermatologist at Marmur Medical.
- Jolie De Feis is the lead aesthetician at Practise NYC.
- Dr. Jae Yong Ban is a board-certified dermatologist and medical director of Banobagi Dermatology Clinic and CEO of Bano Cosmetics.

Why Trust Byrdie

[Lauren Levinson](#) is an experienced beauty editor, writer, and product tester with over 15 years in the industry. She's tested countless anti-aging serums over the years—including several featured in this roundup—and has a deep knowledge of what really works. Plus, since she turned 40, she's taking her anti-aging skincare routine extra seriously. Lauren holds a degree in magazine journalism from Syracuse University and has led editorial teams at top brands Popsugar Beauty, Verywell Family, and Allergan Aesthetics.

edited by [ALYSSA KAPLAN](#)

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 Collage showing skincare application and a jar of Eadem Cloud Cushion moisturizer in the center

 A person applying sunscreen product to their face Eucerin Age Defense SPF 50 bottle shown on the right

MOISTURIZERS

The 9 Best Moisturizers for Combination Skin to Balance Oily T-Zones and Dry Patches, Tested

SUN CARE

The 12 Best Face Sunscreens, According to Testers & Byrdie Editors

 A pump bottle labeled with the brand Prequel set against a plain backdrop

 Two types of foot peel products including their packaging and a glimpse at contents positioned on contrasting backgrounds

SHOPPING

The 8 Best Face Washes for Dry Skin, Tested and Derm-Approved

 A person using a cotton pad on their face next to a bottle of Paulas Choice exfoliant

EXFOLIATION

The 14 Best Foot Peels for Smooth, Soft Feet Year-Round, After Testing 25

 A person using a facial cleansing brush and a closeup of the device

FACE CARE

The 8 Best Blackhead Removers for Clean & Clear Pores, According to Testers and Derms

 A person applies a serum to their face using a dropper packaging of Good Molecules products is visible in the image

FACE CARE

The 6 Best Facial Cleansing Brushes for a Deep Clean, Tested and Derm-Approved

 Three massage oils displayed side by side including a candle oil a L'Occitane bottle and a liquid calming massage oil

FACE CARE

The 14 Best Pore Minimizers

SHOPPING

The 10 Best Massage Oils for

for Smoother-Looking Skin,
According to Testers

Deep Relaxation and
Hydrated Skin, According to
a Massage Expert

 A person applying a clay mask to their face alongside an image of a jar of Kiehls Rare Earth Pore Minimizing Clay Mask

 Close-up of dropper with oil, partly dispensed onto background surface

SHOPPING

These 11 Best Blackhead
Masks Tackle Clogged Pores
to Reveal Clear, Radiant Skin

SKINCARE INGREDIENTS A–Z

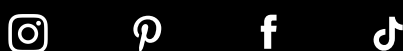
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