

Beauty



Beauty Skin

PrepWork

It should come as no surprise that the basis for great skin is . . . great skin. "I'm a believer in daily exfoliating," says New York dermatologist Patricia Wexler, M.D. "That is immediately going to make you look more luminous." Wexler suggests finding an exfoliant that works with your skin type and sticking to it, whether it's a refining serum (her recommendation: Ren's Radiance Perfection Serum with fruit actives) or a microbrasion product (her own Skin Resurfacing Cream, made with finely scaled aluminum-oxide crystals, is easy to add to your shower routine).

A skin-cleansing device can also help dislodge impurities and dead skin cells, further delivering fresh-faced polish. "Think of a dirty windowpane, the light bouncing off in all different directions. That's what dull skin looks like," says Manhattan dermatologist Catherine Orentreich, M.D. Clinique's new sonic-powered handpiece features two types of bristles for targeting both the T-zone and delicate areas like the cheeks; the palm-size, Swedish-designed Foreo Luna—clad in pebbled silicone in a range of cheerful colors—issues rapid-fire pulsations to gently cleanse and boost microcirculation. (Bonus: no brush head to replace.)

For a truly transformative glow, Wexler recommends scheduling an in-office peel, like the multi-acid Spot Treatment peel, safe for all skin tones. "Two days later, you shed like a reptile," she says. "It makes the skin radiant, and I mean *radiant*."

Prime Time

Primers, designed as a perfecting base that glides on after moisturizer and before makeup, are also having a moment; with the rise of barely there foundations, now's the time for ground support. Optical-light technology powers Shiseido's Glow Enhancing Primer, which helps to refine skin texture and lock in hydration; think of L'Oréal's Revitalift Moisture Blur as Photoshop for your face, subtly retouching imperfections. Make Up For Ever's ten new mix-and-match Skin Equalizer primers address the spectrum of tone and texture, allowing you to fine-tune as needed, from mattifying and pore-erasing to redness and color correction.

Finishing School

Foundation has acquired a bad reputation over the years, but the best new formulas behave more like skin care, less like makeup, and are designed to melt into the skin rather than sit on top of it. To pull off a deceptively barefaced look, take a cue from Daniel Martin, makeup artist to no-makeup-makeup all-stars Felicity Jones, Charlotte Gainsbourg, and Vanessa Traina Snow: "Treat your foundation like concealer: only as needed," he says. It's how makeup artist Mark Carrasquillo approached Brazilian model Caroline Trentini's signature freckle face for this story, strategically dabbing "a really minimal amount" of Kevyn Aucoin's translucent Sensual Skin foundation on isolated areas to conceal redness. His goal: "really touchable skin. I didn't want to cover it up."

Martin regularly "sheers out" foundation by blending it with moisturizer, which is precisely the idea behind Cover FX's new Custom Cover Drops: The concentrated pigment can be added into your medium of choice—moisturizer, face oil, serum—for coverage as sheer (one drop) or complete (four drops) as desired. Cushion compacts, the latest Korean innovation to sweep the shelves, are also leading the charge of stealth foundations that neither look nor feel like makeup. From brands like Dr. Jart+, AmorePacific, and Laneige, the dewy, light-as-air formulas, many bolstered with hyaluronic acid, antioxidants, and SPF, go on with a sponge and allow for no-mirror-necessary touch-ups throughout the day. Skin breathes; freckles show. Consider dabbing a luminizer—like Bobbi Brown's Extra Illuminating Moisture Balm or Estée Lauder's Brush-On Glow BB Highlighter pen, which doubles as a concealer—on spots like the cheekbones, cupid's bow, or tip of the chin, where you want to emphasize the freshness of bare skin. Last step: Expect compliments. —LAURA REGENSDORF BEAUTY>450

