

# The best lip serums, according to experts editors — plus ingredients to look for

Shop these serums for smooth, hydrated lips.



Vivian Le / TODAY

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By Brittany Leitner

If you're still swiping on the balm that's been at the bottom of your bag whenever your lips are feeling [dry or chapped](#), you could be missing out on a major opportunity to actually *treat* the skin on (and around) your lips with nourishing [serums](#).

Sure, adding one more product to your skin care routine might seem a little stressful, but your lips should never go unnoticed. Why? Just like the [eye](#) and [neck](#) areas, the skin surrounding your lip line is very delicate and can show signs of aging.

In fact, wrinkles that naturally occur from drinking through a straw or simply pursing your lips can be so aggravating to deal with once they're there — but with a lip serum, you can treat existing lines and prevent future ones from happening.

Here's everything you need to know about shopping for a lip serum and what ingredients to look for in one, according to dermatologists and estheticians — plus a few editor-favorite picks as well.

**Our top picks for the Best lip serums**



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Best budget lip serum

[Lip Repair + Protect Broad Spectrum SPF 30](#)

\$5.49

[Ulta](#)



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Overall best lip serum

[fresh Sugar Advanced Therapy Lip Rescue Ointment](#)

\$28.00



[Sephora](#)

Most hydrating lip serum

[Hyaluronic Acid + Peptide Lip Booster](#)

\$33.00

## [Paula's Choice](#)



Splurge-worthy editor favorite

[Revision Skincare YouthFull Lip Replenisher](#)

\$42.00

[Amazon](#)

### [What is a lip serum?](#)

“A lip serum is a targeted treatment designed to nourish and enhance the health of your lips at a deeper level,” explains Dr. Shuting Hu, cosmetic chemist and founder of [Acaderma](#).

Instead of just offering momentary comfort from dry, cracked lips, “a lip serum delivers [active ingredients](#) that work to improve the overall condition of your lips,” says Hu. “It hydrates, repairs and rejuvenates, giving your lips long-lasting benefits.”

### [The best lip serums, according to experts](#)

**Best drugstore serum:** [Aquaphor Lip Repair + Protect Broad Spectrum SPF 30](#)



[Lip Repair + Protect Broad Spectrum SPF 30](#)

[\\$5.49](#)

[Ulta](#)

### What we like

- Affordable

- Suitable for daily use

### Something to note

- Some say it has an odd taste

**Shades:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Shea butter, SPF

“This is my top pick because it not only moisturizes but also provides sun protection — an essential but often overlooked part of lip care,” says Brownlee. Just like with your skin care, lip care should include a daily SPF. You can even use it if you have sensitive skin.

**Best for anti-aging:** [fresh Sugar Advanced Therapy Lip Rescue Ointment](#)



[fresh Sugar Advanced Therapy Lip Rescue Ointment](#)

[\\$28.00](#)

[Sephora](#)

### What we like

- Clean formula
- Silicone free

### Something to note

- Not the best absorption

**Shades:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Sugar, ceramides

The inclusion of sugar in this formula can actually help produce a lasting hydration effect on lips. Plus, according to Dr. Gary Goldenberg, a cosmetic dermatologist, this Fresh serum has an “anti-aging formula with acmella flower extract, which helps reduce the appearance of fine lines around the lips, and Kigelia Africana fruit extract to improve firmness.”

**Best with hyaluronic acid:** [Paula's Choice Hyaluronic Acid + Peptide Lip Booster](#)



### [Hyaluronic Acid + Peptide Lip Booster](#)

[\\$33.00](#)

[Paula's Choice](#)

#### **What we like**

- Lightweight
- Non-greasy formula

#### **Something to note**

- Product leaks from tube

**Colors:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Hyaluronic acid, peptides

Hu says [hyaluronic acid](#) is a must-have ingredient in any lip serum you choose. This one from Paula's Choice is affordable and contains both hyaluronic acid as well as peptides. The formula also includes [squalane](#) for hydrating, soothing and reparative effects.

**Best restorative treatment:** [Tatcha The Kissu Lip Treatment Volume-Restoring Lip Serum](#)



### [The Kissu Lip Treatment Volume-Restoring Lip Serum](#)

[\\$40.00](#)

[Tatcha](#)

## What we like

- Helps restore lip volume

## Something to note

- Applicator gets clogged easily

**Shades:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Peptide-like carob extract

The Tatcha Kissu lip treatment is packed with carob extract that mimics peptides and sea fern to help plump and restore lips over time. Sylvia Brownlee, esthetician and founder of [Skin By Brownlee & Co.](#), says, "I love this serum for its luxurious feel and how it delivers lasting moisture, leaving lips soft and smooth."

## [Best lip serums, according to editors](#)

**For some shimmer:** [Cosmedix Lumi Crystal Liquid Crystal Lip Hydrator](#)



## [Cosmedix Lumi Crystal Liquid Crystal Lip Hydrator](#)

[\\$39.00](#)

[Cosmedix](#)

## What we like

- Helps reduce fine lines
- Good for morning and night

## Something to note

- Needs reapplying, per shoppers

**Shades:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Liquid crystal base

This is one of my favorite lip serums on the market. It's made with a clean formula so you don't have to worry about ingesting any gross toxins or chemicals, and it contains a 90% pure liquid crystal base along with peptides that help plump your lips.

Formulated with vitamin C: [Revision Skincare YouthFull Lip Replenisher](#)



### [Revision Skincare YouthFull Lip Replenisher](#)

[\\$42.00](#)

[Amazon](#)

#### What we like

- Helps plump lips
- Has a nice scent

#### Something to note

- Some reviews say it's sticky

**Shades:** 1 | **Key ingredients:** Hyaluronic acid, vitamin E, shea butter, peptides

Adrianna Brach, the editorial director at Shop TODAY, recommends this lip treatment that's packed with *all* of the ingredients you should want in a lip serum. Not only do the ingredients work to help reduce fine lines in your lip area, but they also help with plumping.

#### [Ingredients to look for in a lip serum](#)

When shopping for a lip serum, Dr. Hu says to look for a few stand-out ingredients:

- **Hyaluronic acid:** Just like for your face, hyaluronic acid “is essential for deep hydration, helping to attract and retain moisture,” says Hu.
- **Peptides:** Not only do peptides help support collagen production, but they condition the skin and help lips appear fuller and smoother, says Hu. great for supporting collagen production,
- **Antioxidants:** Think vitamin C and E to “protect the delicate lip area from environmental damage,” explains Hu. Other antioxidants to look out for include natural oils like jojoba or rosehip oil, which “provide nourishment without feeling heavy. It’s all about balancing efficacy with gentle care for long-lasting results,” Hu adds.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

What’s the difference between a lip balm and a lip serum?

#### [How we chose](#)

Before choosing the best lip serums, we spoke with an esthetician, a cosmetic chemist and a cosmetic dermatologist to learn about the product benefits and ingredients to look for. The experts then recommended their go-to lip serums to shop.

## Meet the Experts

Sylvia Brownlee is an esthetician and founder of [Skin By Brownlee & Co.](#)

- Dr. Shuting Hu is a cosmetic chemist and founder of [Acaderma.](#)
- Dr. Gary Goldenberg is a cosmetic dermatologist based in Manhattan.

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