



SKIN CARE

## 13 Best Hand Creams Our Editors Swear By for Soft, Smooth Skin

See ya later, dry cuticles and flaky skin.



BY DENISE PRIMBET

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Our editors feel strongly about the best hand creams in our bags—along with our go-to lip balm and trusty SPF, of course.

As is the case with the rest of your skin, depriving your hands of that much-needed moisture is simply not an option. “Hands are one of the driest areas of the skin due to exposure to the environment and constant handwashing,” says Gary Goldenberg, an NYC-based medical and cosmetic dermatologist at Goldenberg Dermatology. According to Dr. Goldenberg, it’s also common for our hands to be one of the first parts of the body to show signs of aging, and ensuring that they’re well hydrated at all times “is one of the best ways to keep them looking youthful.”

That said, it’s not as simple as picking up any old tube at the drugstore, since so many hand creams are either too watery, too sticky, too thick, or too fragranced. Plus, if you have any particular skin concerns such as eczema or psoriasis, you’d do well to consider formulations that will cater to your skin’s needs and help reduce symptoms.

Determined to find your best possible bets—and put an end to dry cuticles and parched skin—we polled Glamour’s editors on the hand creams that have been getting them through this winter. Because the last thing we need to worry about is irritated, chapped hands. Keep scrolling for a list of the best hand creams we swear by.

### **The best hand creams, at a glance:**

Best Overall: L’Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream, \$32

Best for Dry Patches: CeraVe Healing Ointment, \$11

Best Affordable: Vanicream Moisturizing Cream, \$10

Best Luxury: Dior Le Baume Revitalizing Multi-Use Balm, \$60

Best Nongreasy: Rare Beauty Find Comfort Niacinamide Hydrating Hand Cream, \$18

Best Overall: L’Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream

### **L’Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream**

Key ingredients: Shea butter, allantoin, glycerin

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 5.2 oz.

Let’s face it, it would hardly be a roundup of the best hand creams without this cult formula from L’Occitane. Thanks to a high concentration of 25% shea butter, it feels incredibly nourishing and soothing on the skin while delivering lasting hydration. Not only is it vegan and children-friendly, but it also has the unique ability to form a protective film around your skin to shield it from environmental aggressors. “I’ve been swearing by this hand cream for over five years, and truth be told, I have yet to find a formula that would feel just as rich without leaving my hands too greasy. It has a nice buttery feel and a little goes a long way, meaning you’re unlikely to run out of it as quickly as you would with other hand creams. As a beauty writer with sensitive skin, I find that it delivers exactly what my hands crave during the winter season. Trust me when I tell you that nothing keeps my dry patches just as soothed and hydrated,” says Glamour contributor Denise Primbet.

Pros: Feels very nourishing; instantly soothes and softens irritated and dehydrated skin

Cons: Not fragrance-free; the tube isn’t as compact and convenient to carry around

### **Best for Dry Patches: CeraVe Healing Ointment**

Key ingredients: Ceramides, hyaluronic acid, and petrolatum

Fragrance-free? Yes

Size: 3 oz.

If your hands are more than just “dry” and have gotten to the point where they’re cracked and flared up (we can relate), trust us when we say that a regular hand cream may not be able to help as much as this ointment from CeraVe. We’d advise using it in conjunction with your favorite hand-cream formula as a targeted treatment for the most affected areas (such as your knuckles). Offering long-lasting moisture, this innovative ointment also instantly relieves the chapped or cracked skin while delivering a soothing, healing effect to boost your skin’s moisture barrier overnight. It’s also been proven to help achieve a noticeable improvement in your skin’s hydration levels in as little as one week. Plus, it’s gentle enough to use on all skin types (including eczema-prone and sensitive skin).

Pros: Ideal for targeting dry areas and patches; reasonable prices; proven to improve hydration levels in just one week

Cons: Can feel greasier than other formulas out there

### **Best Splurge: Dior Le Baume Revitalizing Multi-Use Balm**

Key ingredients: Centella asiatica, squalane, glycerin, jojoba oil

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 1.7 oz.

As far as luxury hand creams go, the Dior Le Baume is unbeatable thanks to its versatile formula that works just as well on your hands as it does on the lips and your body, making it ideal for targeting any specific dry areas such as knuckles, elbows, knees, and heels. It's lightweight yet deeply hydrating; plus, it's also infused with Centella asiatica, a well-known skin care ingredient that's commonly found in K-beauty products and is praised for its soothing and barrier-supporting properties. The best part? Not only does the chic pebble packaging make for a perfect accessory to pull out of your bag, but it's also super convenient to carry around as it easily fits in the palm of your hand. "Whenever I know I will be out and about, I always throw this hero product in my purse, knowing it will keep my skin nice and hydrated all day long without having to carry around multiple products. I love that the scent is calming yet not too overwhelming, and I could talk about this texture for hours on end—nourishing but not at all greasy, and sinks in within seconds. I also love to dab a bit of product on my lips for that extra boost of hydration," says Primbet.

Pros: Has a multipurpose and nongreasy formula; features compact packaging

Cons: Expensive; not fragrance-free

Best Nongreasy: Rare Beauty Find Comfort Niacinamide Hydrating Hand Cream

### **Rare Beauty Find Comfort Niacinamide Hydrating Hand Cream**

Key ingredients: Niacinamide, ashwagandha extract, and sodium hyaluronate

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 1.6 oz.

If you're someone who hates greasy and sticky formulas (raises hand), you'll love this gentle formula from Rare Beauty that our editors love. Having launched as part of Selena's body care range, the Find Comfort hand cream is a clear standout thanks to its clever formulation and compact packaging. This moisturizing and fast-absorbing formula is filled to the brim with skin-loving ingredients such as niacinamide, ashwagandha extract, and sodium hyaluronate to keep your hands hydrated for up to 16 hours. And if you love an uplifting scent, you'll appreciate the notes of sparkling lemon zest, jasmine, and cashmere wood—a calming fragrance that smells like a spa. "When it comes to hand creams, I always welcome compact and spill-proof packaging as well as a nongreasy feel, which is precisely what Rare Beauty delivers. Normally, I would need to wait for at least 10 minutes until a hand cream absorbs so I can return to typing on my laptop and using my phone without leaving any oily marks. I'm glad to report that this definitely isn't the case with the Find Comfort hand cream. As a bonus, it also has the most relaxing fragrance," says Primbet.

Pros: Fast-absorbing; has a stunning, uplifting scent; buttery consistency

Cons: May not be as nourishing for extremely dry skin

### **Best Fast-Absorbing: Phlur Hand Cream**

Key ingredients: Squalane, glycerin, snow mushroom

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 2.1 oz.

This quality formula is rich with humectants, offering lasting moisture without that unwanted greasy feel. And can we take a minute to appreciate the chic packaging? “Whenever I’m in need of a long-lasting scent, I love to slather my hands in this ultra-fragrant hand cream, and if I’m going out and about, I love to layer it with a matching Phlur perfume. It’s also ultra-hydrating because it’s infused with squalane, glycerin, and snow mushroom to keep skin crack-free and silky smooth. I like to rub this on in the mornings right before I head out for the day (especially if I’m spending time in cold weather) and typically take it with me to reapply if needed. It leaves my hands quite soft and velvety for hours, and also smooths out rough, coarse texture around my knuckles. This one is such a hack, though, if you want to smell good all day long without having to carry around a perfume,” says Glamour commerce writer Alanna Martine Kilkeary.

Pros: Has a unique fragrance; nongreasy; fast-absorbing

Cons: Isn’t a great fit for those of us after a fragrance-free formula

### **Best for Eczema: Vanicream Moisturizing Cream**

Key ingredients: Allantoin, ceramides, glycerin, hyaluronic acid, squalane, and sorbitol

Fragrance-free? Yes

Size: 4 oz.

As recommended by Dr. Goldenberg, the Vanicream Moisturizing Cream is “one of the best formulas for eczema or sensitive skin,” and with good reason. It’s formulated without any lanolin, artificial dyes, formaldehyde, or parabens, making this fragrance-free cream irritant-free and safe to use even on the most sensitized skin. Plus, it was also awarded the Seal of Acceptance by the NEA (National Eczema Association). Its gentle formulation soothes and hydrates the skin with ease, offering a buttery yet nongreasy consistency and a nourishing feel. We didn’t even get to the best bit yet—it’s super affordable, too, making it ideal for restocking your beauty cupboard all year round.

Pros: Suitable for sensitive skin; safe to use for eczema and psoriasis; fragrance-free; affordable

Cons: May not be the best for oily skin types

### **Best for Extremely Dry Hands: La Roche-Posay Cicaplast Hand Repair Cream**

Key ingredients: Niacinamide, glycerin, and La Roche-Posay thermal spring water

Fragrance-free? Yes

Size: 1.6 oz.

Part of its best-selling Cicaplast range, the Hand Repair Cream from La Roche-Posay is a must for delivering instant relief from excessively dry skin and cracked hands. It wraps around the skin and offers a glove-like layer that locks in hydration for up to 48 hours, making it particularly useful to use during winter. Infused with the likes of niacinamide, glycerin, and the brand’s thermal spring water, this quality hand cream will help with a multitude of skin concerns. Not only will it help repair your skin’s natural moisture barrier and help protect it from environmental aggressors, but it’s also been

proven to reduce discoloration over long-term use. Oh, and did we mention that it's also free from allergens, parabens, and fragrance? Once again, this French skin care brand never fails to deliver.

Pros: Great option for very dry and sensitive skin; delivers lasting hydration; nonirritating and fragrance-free formula

Cons: Nothing of note

### **Best Drugstore: Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream**

Key ingredients: Alpha Hydroxy, ceramide-3, and natural moisturizing factors

Fragrance-free? Yes

Size: 2.7 oz.

Dr. Goldenberg likes the Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream for its ability to restore your hands' moisture barrier over time without causing any irritation or flare-ups. This clinically proven, unscented formula has been expertly formulated to instantly treat rough skin and restore it back to its velvety supple state overnight. "This nongreasy, noncomedogenic, and fast-absorbing hand cream is, hands down, the best drugstore formula I've tried," says Primbet. "It offers great value and the quality speaks for itself. Every time I slather my hands with this gem of a hand cream, my skin remains soft and hydrated for hours on end." It's just under \$20—an absolute steal.

Pros: Affordable; suitable for all skin types; has a rich consistency and a nongreasy feel

Cons: The packaging isn't spill-proof

### **Best Antioxidant-Rich: Caudalie Hand & Nail Cream**

Key ingredients: Antioxidant grape polyphenols, reparative organic shea butter

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 2.5 oz.

Every beauty lover knows that when it comes to quality skin care, Caudalie doesn't play around. While the brand's already renowned for its face-focused product range, trust us when we tell you that its hand and body line-up is nothing short of impressive, and this particular hand cream is no exception. Featuring an antioxidant-rich ingredients list, this clever formula delivers a silky-smooth finish and a lasting soothing effect. "I'm not usually someone who reaches for fragranced hand creams, however, this formula from Caudalie genuinely surprised me. In practice, the relaxing scent isn't at all overwhelming and the formula instantly absorbs into the skin without feeling too oily," says Primbet.

Pros: The silky texture instantly absorbs into the skin; reasonably priced; full of antioxidants; cruelty-free

Cons: May not be as suitable for sensitive skin due its fragrance

### **Best Scent: Parfums de Marly Delina Hand Cream**

Size: 1 oz.

Niche luxury perfume lovers, look alive, because this might just be the best-smelling hand cream out there. A bold claim, we know, but there's no arguing that Delina by Parfums de Marly is genuinely one of the most sought-after floral scents. See for yourself: one scroll across #PerfumeTok, and you'll quickly see thousands of videos dedicated to this cult fragrance. Featuring addictive notes of bergamot, lychee, Turkish rose, lily of the valley, and peony, this ensemble is

complemented by the creamy and powdery finish of vanilla, musk, and cashmere. Scent aside, this hand cream is also packed with skin-loving ingredients such as shea butter and coconut oil to keep your skin nice and hydrated all day long.

Pros: Amazing fragrance; nourishing ingredients

Cons: May not be the best fit for those who want to prioritize hydration

### **Best Restorative: Aesop Resurrection Aromatique Hand Balm**

Key ingredients: Botanical oils, glycerin, coconut oil

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 2.6 oz.

Known for its luxurious scents, Aesop also famously produces one of the best restorative hand creams on the market. Featuring a blend of fragrant botanical oils and skin-loving emollients, this quality formula offers lasting hydration to your hands and cuticles and helps keep them protected from day-to-day aggressors such as frequent handwashing, changes in the weather, and air-conditioning. The result? Velvety-soft hands minus the stickiness or the greasy feel. Better yet, it also features a spa-like uplifting fragrance to keep you calm and centered throughout the day. “This replenishing formula has been my go-to since the dawn of time. Not only is it incredibly hydrating but it also gets extra points for its addicting citrusy fragrance,” says Primbet.

Pros: Has an uplifting fragrance; feels nourishing on the skin; offers a luxurious feel

Cons: May not be suitable for sensitive skin; not fragrance-free

### **Best for Mature Skin: Dr. Barbara Sturm Super Anti Aging Hand Cream**

Key ingredients: Hyaluronic acid, ceramides, antioxidants, daisy flower extract, mangosteen and quince extract

Fragrance-free? Yes

Size: 1.6 oz.

Known for her potent ingredients and innovative formulas, Dr. Barbara Sturm offers a new take on anti-aging skin care, making her hand cream a natural addition to this roundup. Its unique multipurpose formula helps take care of your hands on all fronts, from the ceramide-rich complex that strengthens your skin’s barrier to antioxidants like purslane and vitamin E that protect the hands from free radicals. And if that wasn’t enough, hyaluronic acid helps maintain optimal hydration levels while daisy-flower extract is also known for its brightening benefits to minimize the look of dark spots and even out your skin tone. The star of the show? The mangosteen and quince extract that helps plump up your skin and reduce the look of fine lines and wrinkles. A must for mature skin types.

Pros: Comes with plenty of anti-aging and hydrating ingredients; suitable for all skin types (including sensitive skin)

Cons: Expensive

### **Best 2-in-1 Formula: Clarins Hand and Nail Treatment Cream**

Key ingredients: Shea butter, sesame oil, and myrrh

Fragrance-free? No

Size: 3.4 oz.

Every nail technician can confirm that taking care of your cuticles and nail beds is just as important as moisturizing your hands, and this cream from Clarins takes care of it all. Acting as a deeply hydrating treatment, this formula softens and soothes the skin like a dream. Its ingredient list includes everything from shea butter to sesame oil and myrrh, delivering all the nourishments that our hands crave regardless of the weather outside. The nongreasy cream melts into the skin and feels surprisingly lightweight, making it great for everyday application. Long story short, if you're someone who tends to forget to carry around a cuticle oil, this hand cream is a must-have.

Pros: Takes care of both hands and cuticles; lightweight feel; has a pleasant fragrance

Cons: May not be the best for sensitive skin types