

# 11 Best Retinol Body Lotions for Firmer Skin from Neck to Knees

Ahead, we listed every retinol body lotion, cream, and serum that board-certified dermatologists (and our editors) swear by for skin that needs blemish-, dullness-, and crepe-reducing care.

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## Best Overall: Topicals Slather Exfoliating Body Serum



Topicals

**Slather Exfoliating Body Serum**

[\\$30](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$30](#)[Sephora](#)

**Why it's worth it:** If your skin can handle it, Dr. Yadav recommends an exfoliating body lotion like the Topicals Slather Exfoliating Body Serum. It contains a Best of Beauty-winning combination of retinol *and* glycolic and lactic acids, which are alpha hydroxy acids that help "reduce fine lines and discoloration, as well as remove dead skin cells on the surface," says Dr. Yadav. This allows the retinol to better penetrate the skin, which is especially helpful if you're trying to combat rough texture or a skin condition like [keratosis pilaris](#).

[Mamina Turegano](#), MD, a board-certified dermatologist based in New Orleans, Louisiana, also gives this value-friendly formula her stamp of approval. "I appreciate the combo of actives—retinol, lactic acid, and urea to gently exfoliate—for just \$30," she says. "I also love how moisturizing it is, with goodies like glycerin, squalane, green tea leaf extract, and vitamin E."



"The texture is more like a lightweight body lotion that dispenses white, but after slathering a generous dollop onto my palm and rubbing it along my arms and chest, the product fully absorbs into my brown skin," she explains. "And since this body serum's formulated with exfoliating ingredients like lactic and glycolic acid, along with retinol, I have no hesitancy applying it twice a day—both morning and night—for smoother, bump-free arms." —**Talia Gutierrez, former associate manager of special projects**



- **Other key ingredients:** glycolic acid, lactic acid
- **Who it's for:** people with body breakouts, strawberry skin, or keratosis pilaris

- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** not disclosed

## Best Prescription-Strength: Musely The Body Cream



Musely

## The Body Cream

[\\$97](#)

[Musely](#)

**Why it's worth it:** While it's always best to see a dermatologist when you can, Musely makes prescription-strength care far more accessible by connecting you with a licensed provider who tailors the brand's Body Cream to your specific needs. At the core of the formula is [tretinoin](#), also known as retinoic acid—the fastest-acting form of vitamin A. “Tretinoin is the gold standard for improving skin texture and fine lines,” San Diego-based board-certified dermatologist [Azadeh Shirazi](#), MD, [previously told](#) *Allure*. This potent ingredient accelerates cell turnover to smooth wrinkles, clear breakouts, and refine tone. Supporting players include vitamin C to brighten sun spots and hyaluronic acid to lock in lasting head-to-toe hydration.



If the mention of [hydroquinone](#) (which isn't in *every* formula, by the way) freaks you out, it's one of the most effective ingredients when it comes to curbing melanin production. If you have dry and sensitive skin or a deeper skin tone, you might want to stay away—but as always, consult with a board-certified dermatologist. Another tip? Don't use it for more than six months, or stop sooner once your hyperpigmentation fades.



- **Other key ingredients:** vitamin C, hyaluronic acid
- **Who it's for:** people targeting signs of aging below the neck
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** 0.01% to 0.015% tretinoin, depending on the specific formula provided

## Best for Sensitive Skin: Replenix Retinol Smooth + Tighten Body Lotion



Replenix

## Retinol Smooth + Tighten Body Lotion

[\\$94](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$94](#)[Dermstore](#)

**Why it's worth it:** You won't find the exact retinol percentage on the label, but Replenix Retinol Smooth + Tighten Body Lotion does pack all-trans-retinol—a [well-studied](#) form of vitamin A that your skin converts into retinoic acid to boost collagen production and cell turnover. The brand calls its retinol "[medical-grade](#)," which (FYI) is often industry shorthand for levels you won't typically see in standard drugstore products, although there's no regulation around the term. And while it's potent, sensitive-skin types don't need to worry: "The formula's all-trans-retinol is encapsulated for gradual release, to minimize irritation while it brightens and firms crepey skin. Plus, it's paired with calming edelweiss flower extract and antioxidant-rich green tea," says [Gary Goldenberg](#), MD, a board-certified dermatologist based in New York City.



Got sensitive skin that's also Sahara-level dry? This formula has you covered. "It also contains hyaluronic acid to plump and hydrate, plus ceramides to support skin elasticity and lock in moisture," says [Dara Spearman](#), MD, a board-certified dermatologist based in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



- **Other key ingredients:** Pwr3+ Antioxidant Complex, hyaluronic acid, biomimetic ceramide complex, edelweiss flower extract
- **Who it's for:** people with crepey skin or uneven texture
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** not disclosed

**Best Scent: Chantecaille Rose de Mai Body Cream with Retinol**



Chantecaille

## Rose de Mai Body Cream with Retinol



[\\$155](#)[Dermstore](#)[\\$155](#)[Bluemercury](#)

**Why it's worth it:** When we think of French-girl glow, we think of Chantecaille—the brand, which began as a French fragrance house, has always made everyday routines feel elegant and indulgent. The Rose de Mai Body Cream with Retinol features a velvety, fast-absorbing formula that melts into skin with a delicate, natural rose fragrance. And while the scent is dreamy, the formula works hard to smooth out dry, rough texture. “This lotion uses encapsulated retinol in botanical microspheres for controlled release, reducing irritation, and includes glycerin, shea butter, and jojoba to hydrate and soften uneven skin,” says Dr. Goldenberg. But it tackles more than dryness: “Retinol also helps clear body breakouts and [fade stubborn dark spots](#), while the antioxidants from rose water and avocado extracts protect against new damage,” he says.



- **Other key ingredients:** rose flower water, shea butter, marine extract, avocado extract
- **Who it's for:** people with dry skin or uneven texture
- **Fragrance-free:** yes (natural rosewater scent)
- **Retinol concentration:** not disclosed

## Best Fast-Acting: Murad Resurgence Retinal ReSculpt Body Treatment



Murad

## Resurgence Retinal ReSculpt Body Treatment

[\\$79](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$79](#)[Dermstore](#)

**Why it's worth it:** Nope, it's not a typo—Murad's Resurgence Retinal ReSculpt Body Treatment really does use [retinal](#) (also called retinaldehyde), the more potent cousin of retinol that works faster to deliver noticeable results. Perfect for those tricky spots prone to sagging (think arms, knees, and décolletage), it blends powerful actives with rich, skin-loving moisturizers. "The encapsulated retinal delivers more efficacy with less irritation to help lift, firm, and tighten skin, while shea butter, squalane, and avocado extract keep it deeply moisturized," says Dr. Spearman. The lush yet quick-absorbing formula leaves skin soft and smooth over time, minus any greasy finish.



- **Other key ingredients:** shea butter, squalane, urea, avocado fruit extract
- **Who it's for:** people with stretch marks, crepey skin, or cellulite
- **Fragrance-free:** no
- **Retinol concentration:** not disclosed

**Best for Mature Skin: Beauty Pie Youthbomb Body 360° Repair Concentrate**



Beauty Pie

## Youthbomb Body 360° Repair Concentrate

[\\$75](#)

## [Beauty Pie](#)

**Why it's worth it:** Dr. Turegano revealed Beauty Pie's Youthbomb Body 360° Repair Concentrate is her favorite body retinol, so that's high praise. "It has a powerhouse combo of ingredients, including 2% granactive retinol, 5% niacinamide, and 6.7% glycolic acid, that is very moisturizing and fast-absorbing," she notes. If you didn't know, granactive retinoid is a synthetic retinoic acid that's less irritating and more stable (less likely to break down when exposed to light or air) than traditional retinol. However, like retinol, it stimulates collagen production and curbs the formation of wrinkles.



- **Other key ingredients:** niacinamide, glycolic acid
- **Who it's for:** people with mature skin, dark stubborn spots, or discoloration
- **Fragrance-free:** no
- **Retinol concentration:** 2% granactive retinoid

## **Best for Dry Skin: Versed Press Restart Advanced Retinol Body Butter**



Versed

## Press Restart Advanced Retinol Body Butter

[\\$9](#)[Amazon](#)

**Why it's worth it:** [Mona Gohara](#), MD, a board-certified dermatologist based in Hamden, Connecticut, recommends Versed Press Restart Advanced Retinol Body Butter, which she uses in her [nighttime routine](#). For a cool \$20, you get "a cosmetically elegant whipped cream that has collagen-building properties," says Dr. Gohara. "I put it on all over, but particularly on my arms and thighs." It's rich yet fast-absorbing and really ups the skin-conditioning effects, thanks to ample butters, an amino-acid-rich tripeptide, and squalane. As the "Advanced" in the product name suggests, it's the brand's stronger retinol offering (see more below), so take heed. P.S. There are no added fragrances, but tucuma and cocoa butters give off a natural, nutty scent.



- **Other key ingredients:** tripeptide, tucuma and cocoa butters, squalane, niacinamide
- **Who it's for:** [people with dry skin](#)
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** 0.13% encapsulated retinol

## Best Lightweight: Paula's Choice Retinol Skin-Smoothing Body Treatment



Paula's Choice

## Retinol Skin-Soothing Body Treatment



[\\$32](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$32](#)[Dermstore](#)[\\$32](#)[Paula's Choice](#)

**Why it's worth it:** If you're looking for a dose of lightweight moisture, Paula's Choice Retinol Skin-Soothing Body Treatment won't disappoint. Dr. Liu is a fan of this silky formula because "it combines retinol with antioxidants and emollients to target both texture and hydration." Moisturizers like shea butter and [grapeseed oil](#) can feel heavy, but Paula's Choice manages to make this treatment feel virtually weightless. A sticky, greasy finish? Not a chance.



- **Other key ingredients:** shea butter, grapeseed oil
- **Who it's for:** people who want fast-absorbing moisture
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** 0.1% retinol

## Best Splurge: U Beauty Resurfacing Body Compound



U Beauty

## Resurfacing Body Compound

[\\$128](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$128](#)[Nordstrom](#)[\\$128](#)[Dermstore](#)

**Why it's worth it:** U Beauty Resurfacing Body Compound won a [2024 Best of Beauty Award](#) in the Splurges category for many reasons. For one, and most importantly, it pairs retinol with all of the acids your skin needs to amp up cell turnover: [lactic](#), [salicylic](#), [mandelic](#), phytic, and [glycolic](#), plus papain enzymes (extract from papaya fruit). Though it *shouldn't* sting or cause irritation upon application, as with all retinol products, start easy and build up usage. Plus, a boatload of conditioning ingredients, including glycerin, peptides, hyaluronic acid, and vitamin E will surely soothe and soften your skin.



- **Other key ingredients:** lactic acid, glycolic acid, mandelic acid, phytic acid, salicylic acid, biomimetic peptides, papain, bioferments
- **Who it's for:** people with mature, rough, or dull skin
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** not disclosed

## Best for Body Acne: Soft Services Software Update Performance Retinol Serum



Soft Services

## Software Update Performance Retinol Serum

[\\$44](#)[Sephora](#)

**Why it's worth it:** If you want a retinol treatment that's light enough to layer under your favorite [hydrating body lotion](#), you'll love the Soft Services Software Update Performance Retinol Serum just as much as we do. This weightless, fast-absorbing formula treats your skin with a max-strength combination of 0.25% pure retinol, 5% niacinamide, and 3% glycerin to help clear clogged pores, smooth bumpy texture, and lighten post-acne marks while also firming and refining skin over time. The retinol boosts cell turnover, helping dead skin cells shed more efficiently so they don't build up and block pores, while niacinamide calms inflammation and regulates oil to keep future breakouts at bay.



- **Other key ingredients:** 5% niacinamide, 3% glycerin
- **Who it's for:** those seeking a lightweight, layering-friendly treatment
- **Fragrance-free:** yes
- **Retinol concentration:** 0.25%

**Best for Dark Spots: Nécessaire The Body Retinol**



Nécessaire

**The Body Retinol**

[\\$58](#)[Amazon](#)[\\$58](#)[Nordstrom](#)

**Why it's worth it:** Not only is Nécessaire aesthetically pleasing—its chic, minimalist packaging will upgrade any bathroom situation—but the editor-approved The Body Retinol has the chops to earn a permanent, rightful place in your skin-care routine. The formula has one main mission: to [reduce signs of aging](#) on the body, including the appearance of fine lines, crepiness, uneven texture, and hyperpigmentation. Pure encapsulated retinol (0.1%) works alongside other heavy hitters like mandelic and [glycolic acid](#) (gentle chemical exfoliators) and [vitamin C](#) (a skin-brightening antioxidant) to leave behind undeniably smoother skin.

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