

12 Best Hand Creams We Tested for Soft, Smooth Hands in 2025

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You might have every inch of your skin care covered, but don't forget about your hands. The best hand creams help add [much-needed moisture](#), especially if you want to keep them looking good for years to come.

“It's one of the driest areas of the body due to exposure to the environment and constant handwashing,” says [Gary Goldenberg, MD](#), a medical and cosmetic dermatologist at Goldenberg Dermatology in NYC. It's also common for hands to be one of the first places to show signs of aging, so hydration “is one of the best ways to keep them looking youthful.”

To help find the best hand creams for your skin type, we spoke with experts and polled *Glamour's* editors for their go-tos against dry conditions and daily elements. Our best overall pick was [L'Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream](#). Its unmatched nourishing formulation checked off all the boxes for us: buttery, nongreasy, and deeply hydrating—it's basically a huge drink of water for our hands. But we also found drugstore finds and recommendations for extremely sensitive skin such as eczema.

The best hand creams, at a glance

Best Overall

L'Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream

[Jump to review](#)

~~\$32~~ [\\$26 \(19% off\)](#)

[Amazon](#)

Best Drugstore

Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream

[Jump to review](#)

~~\$21~~ [\\$14 \(33% off\)](#)

[Amazon](#)

Best for Eczema

Aveeno Eczema Therapy Daily Moisturizing Cream

[Jump to review](#)

~~\$13~~ [\\$11 \(15% off\)](#)

[Amazon](#)

Best for Dry Patches

CeraVe Healing Ointment

[Jump to review](#)

[\\$12](#)

[Amazon](#)

Best for Extremely Dry Hands

La Roche-Posay Cicaplast Hands Barrier Repairing Cream

[Jump to review](#)

[\\$12](#)

[Ulta](#)

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How we tested

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We tested dozens of hand creams based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to consistency, value, and efficacy. We paid close attention to ingredients backed by dermatologists (more on that below), taking into consideration those that were packed with nourishing and hydrating ingredients such as shea butters, hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and oils. When applying each formula, we closely observed how it felt (Did it feel nourishing? Was there a greasy feel? Did it result in any irritation?). We also took note of long-term benefits, particularly improvement to the skin's elasticity and hydration levels after using the formula for four to six weeks.

[Jump to FAQs](#)

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



Courtesy of brand

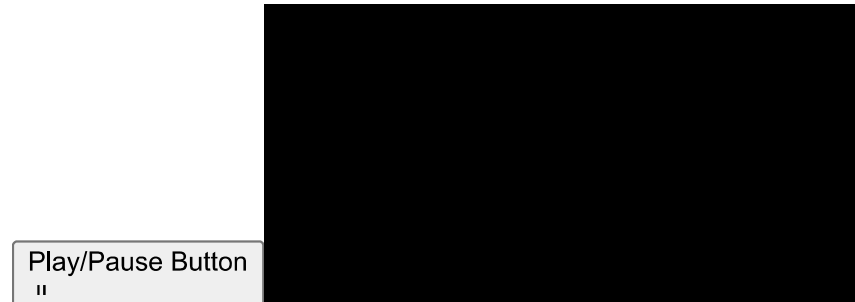
L'Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream

~~\$32~~ \$26 (19% off)

[Amazon](#)

[\\$32](#)

[Sephora](#)



Original video from Denise Primbet testing L'Occitane Nourishing and Protective Shea Butter Hand Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Shea butter, allantoin, glycerin
- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 5.2 oz.

Best for: Deeply nourishing and protecting against environmental aggressors

Let's face it, it would hardly be a "best hand creams" list without this cult formula from L'Occitane. Thanks to a high concentration of 25% shea butter, it feels incredibly nourishing and soothing while delivering lasting hydration. It forms a protective film around your skin to shield it from environmental aggressors.

Tester notes: "I've been swearing by this hand cream for more than 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; tube is a little bulky and inconvenient to carry around
-

Best for Eczema: Aveeno Eczema Therapy Daily Moisturizing Cream

- Courtesy of brand
- Courtesy of brand



Aveeno Eczema Therapy Daily Moisturizing Cream

~~\$13~~ \$11 (15% off)

[Amazon](#)

Original video from Alanna Martine Kilkeary testing Aveeno Eczema Therapy Daily Moisturizing Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Colloidal oatmeal
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 5 oz, 7.3 oz., 12 oz.

Best for: Dry, itchy skin; eczema

With the seal of approval from the National Eczema Association, Aveeno's moisturizing lotion relieves redness, dryness, and crusting that comes with eczema flareups. This super-creamy formula absorbs beautifully, while also strengthening your [skin's moisture barrier](#). While this cream is, of course, ideal for those with eczema, harsh winter temperatures can do a number on anyone's hands, so consider it great for anyone with dry skin.

Tester notes: “I’ve had eczema for as long as I can remember,” says *Glamour* commerce writer [Alanna Martine Kilkeary](#), “and while it has mainly cropped up on my arms, I’ve had some flare-ups on the back of my hands recently, which my dermatologist diagnosed as dyshidrotic eczema. On top of using a prescription medicine to address it, I’ve been reaching for this creamy eczema-safe cream to keep my skin in check. It’s done a great job at calming my bumps and leaving my skin supersoft and smooth. I’m finally free of eczema on my hands, and I think applying this in tandem with my prescription made all the difference.”

- **Pros:** Fragrance-free; feels nourishing on the skin
- **Cons:** Has a thinner consistency so it’s runny

Best for Dry Patches: CeraVe Healing Ointment



Courtesy of brand

CeraVe Healing Ointment

[\\$12](#)

[Amazon](#)

[\\$11](#)

[Ulta](#)

Original video from Jenifer Calle testing CeraVe Healing Ointment

- **Key ingredients:** Ceramides, hyaluronic acid, and petrolatum
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 3 oz.

Best for: Cracked, chafed skin

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 does. We recommend using it along with your favorite lotion, making it a targeted treatment for the most affected areas (such as your knuckles). Offering long-lasting moisture, this innovative ointment instantly relieves the chapped or cracked skin while delivering a soothing, healing effect to boost your skin's moisture barrier overnight. Plus, it's gentle enough to use on all skin types (including eczema-prone and sensitive skin).

Tester notes: "My beauty cabinet isn't complete without a hardworking hand cream. Although technically this is an ointment, it's my go-to during the winter because my hands and lips are prone to drying. My boyfriend also refuses to wear hand cream, so I force him to apply a tiny drop of at the end of the day to heal his cracked fingers. It's very thick so the tube will last you for a very long time," says *Glamour* senior commerce editor [Jenifer Calle](#).

- **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 for Extremely Dry Hands: La Roche-Posay Cicaplast Hands Barrier Repairing Cream

Courtesy of brand

La Roche-Posay Cicaplast Hands Barrier Repairing Cream

[\\$12](#)

[Ulta](#)

[\\$13](#)

[Amazon](#)

Original video from Jenifer Calle testing La Roche-Posay Cicaplast Hands Barrier Repairing Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Niacinamide, glycerin, La Roche-Posay thermal spring water
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 1.6 oz.

Best for: Excessively dry, cracked skin

Part of its best-selling Cicaplast range, the Hands Barrier Repairing Cream from La Roche-Posay is great for instant relief from excessively dry skin and cracked hands. It wraps around as a glove-like layer to lock in hydration, making it particularly useful during winter. Infused with niacinamide, glycerin, and the brand's thermal spring water, this quality pick will help with a multitude of skin concerns. Not only will it improve your skin's natural moisture barrier and help protect from environmental aggressors, but it's also been proven to reduce discoloration with long-term use. Oh, and did we mention that it's free from allergens, parabens, and fragrance?

Tester notes: "This lightweight hand cream is great for people who want the hydration without any of the stickiness. My boyfriend's hands crack every fall and winter because he spends a lot of time outdoors—even to the point that they bleed. This year I made sure he carries this hand

cream with him. It's great for guys that prefer an unscented and nongreasy option," says *Glamour's* Calle.

- **Pros:** Great option for very dry and sensitive skin; delivers lasting hydration; nonirritating and fragrance-free formula
 - **Cons:** Leaves a white cast
-

Best for Aging Skin: True Botanicals Chebula The Hand Cream

Courtesy of brand

True Botanicals Chebula The Hand Cream

[\\$48](#)

[Nordstrom](#)

Original video from Taryn Brooke testing True Botanicals Chebula The Hand Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Chebula, emblica, niacinamide, hyaluronic acid
- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 1.7 oz.

Best for: Those wanting to treat early signs of aging

As you age, you're more prone to dry skin, and your hands are no exception. True Botanicals Chebula hand cream is packed with antioxidants, most notably chebula (so powerful that the hand cream is named for it), an ayurvedic fruit that nourishes and strengthens the body; its bioactive nature helps to deeply hydrate and support collagen levels, especially since your skin gets thin and loses laxity as you age. Added embilca, which contains high levels of vitamin C, helps protect against environmental stressors and skin damage.

Tester notes: “It’s difficult for me to find a hand cream that deeply hydrates my hands. I use a ton of antibacterial spray (shout-out to my all-time fave, [Touchland](#)), wash my hands often, and do a lot of typing, so my poor, aging hands get dry easily. This cream is so luscious and buttery; it absorbs quickly and leaves me feeling silky and subtly greasy (but not in a bad way). The smell is pleasant, and my hands stay smooth and hydrated until my next antibacterial application or hand wash,” says *Glamour* contributor [Taryn Brooke](#).

- **Pros:** Feels nourishing on the skin; comes with plenty of antiaging and hydrating ingredients
 - **Cons:** Expensive; not fragrance-free
-

Best Nongreasy: Rare Beauty Find Comfort Hydrating Hand Cream

Courtesy of brand

Rare Beauty Find Comfort Hydrating Hand Cream

[\\$18](#)

[Sephora](#)

Original video from Denise Primbet testing Rare Beauty Find Comfort Hydrating Hand Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Niacinamide, ashwagandha extract, sodium hyaluronate
- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 1.6 oz.

Best for: Quick absorption; lasting hydration

If you’re someone who hates greasy, sticky formulas [*raises hand*], you’ll love this gentle option 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 fast-absorbing formulation and compact packaging. It’s 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.

Tester notes: “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

- Courtesy of brand
- Courtesy of brand



Phlur Hand Cream

[\\$20](#)

[Revolve](#)

Original video from Alanna Martine Kilkeary testing Phlur Missing Person Hand Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Squalane, glycerin, snow mushroom

- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 2.1 oz.

Best for: Fragrance lovers

This quality formula is rich with humectants, offering lasting moisture without that unwanted greasy feel. The unique combination of squalane, glycerin, and snow mushrooms deeply plump and hydrate the skin, while also adding an antiaging component to this chicly packaged hand cream.

Tester notes: “I love to slather my hands with this ultrafragrant hand cream for long-lasting scent. I layer it with a matching Phlur perfume. It’s ultrahydrating 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 soft and velvety for hours, and smooths out rough, coarse texture around my knuckles. It’s my hack to smelling good all day without having to carry around a perfume,” says *Glamour’s* 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 Cuticles: Soft Services Theraplush Overnight Repair Treatment

Courtesy of brand

Soft Services Theraplush “Hold” Overnight Repair Treatment

[\\$62](#)

[Sephora](#)

Original video from Taryn Brookes testing Soft Services Theraplush “Hold” Overnight Repair Treatment

- **Key ingredients:** Retinol, colloidal oatmeal, panthenol
- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 1.7 oz.

Best for: Those with fine lines and for locking in deep hydration, especially around the cuticles

If there’s one ingredient that’ll keep your skin supple for years to come, it’s retinol. Soft Services’ Theraplush hand repair cream contains a winning combo of 0.05% retinol to support collagen production, colloidal oatmeal to soften the skin, and panthenol to hydrate and support your skin barrier. This retinol-based hand treatment absorbs quickly but leaves your hands with a fresh-from-the-nail-salon feeling. Its subtle, warm fragrance is simply the cherry on top of this nourishing lotion.

Tester notes: “I love that this not only helps address collagen production but also helps to maintain my manicure and cuticles, especially since I always go for a [Russian manicure](#) (where they buff and cut my cuticles), causing them to get dry as they grow back in. I’ve been using this hand cream for over a year every evening to help with this, and I consider it one of my favorites. I can confidently say that it absolutely works and does what it says it does. Long story short, if you’re someone who tends to forget to carry around a [cuticle oil](#), this hand cream is a must-have,” says Brooke.

- **Pros:** Plumps the skin; maintains cuticles; strengthens nails;
- **Cons:** Expensive; if used nightly, a tub will only last a little over month (refills are available)

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

Courtesy of brand

Dr. Barbara Sturm Super Anti-Aging Hand Cream

[\\$80](#)

[Amazon](#)

Original video from Jenifer Calle testing Dr. Barbara Sturm Super Anti-Aging Hand Cream

- **Key ingredients:** Hyaluronic acid, ceramides, antioxidants, daisy flower extract, mangosteen extract, quince extract
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 1.6 oz.

Best for: Aging skin; strengthening skin barrier

Dr. Barbara Sturm products are known for their potent ingredients and innovative formulas. The hand cream has a multipurpose approach to care for 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, which is known for its brightening benefits, helps [minimize the look of dark spots](#). The star of the show? The mangosteen and quince extracts that help plump up your skin and reduce the look of fine lines and wrinkles.

Tester notes: "A little goes a long way with this hand cream," says *Glamour's* Calle. "It's very hydrating, but you do have to rub it in well. Though, afterwards my hands feel so hydrated and smooth."

- **Pros:** Comes with plenty of antiaging and hydrating ingredients; suitable for all skin types (including sensitive skin)
- **Cons:** Expensive; must rub in well

Best Splurge: Dior Le Baume Revitalizing Multi-Use Balm

Courtesy of brand

Dior Le Baume Revitalizing Multi-Use Balm

[\\$60](#)

[Sephora](#)

Original video from Denise Primbet testing Dior Le Baume Revitalizing Multi-Use Balm

- **Key ingredients:** *Centella asiatica*, squalane, glycerin, jojoba oil
- **Fragrance-free?** No
- **Size:** 1.7 oz.

Best for: All skin types; extremely dry skin

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 infused with *Centella asiatica*, a well-known skin care ingredient commonly found in [K-beauty products](#) and 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, it's also super convenient to carry around, as it easily fits in the palm of your hand.

Tester notes: "Whenever I know I will be out and about, I 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:** Multipurpose and nongreasy formula; compact packaging
 - **Cons:** Expensive; not fragrance-free
-

Best Drugstore: Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream

Courtesy of brand

Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream

~~\$21~~ \$14 (33% off)

[Amazon](#)

- **Key ingredients:** Alpha hydroxy acid, ceramide-3, natural moisturizing factors
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 2.7 oz.

Best for: Restoring cracked and irritated skin

Dr. Goldenberg recommends Eucerin Advanced Repair Hand Cream because it restores 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 to its velvety supple state overnight.

Tester notes: "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."

- **Pros:** Affordable; suitable for all skin types; rich consistency and nongreasy feel
 - **Cons:** Packaging isn't spill-proof
-

Best for Hands and Body: Vanicream Moisturizing Cream

Courtesy of brand

Vanicream Moisturizing Cream

~~\$16~~ [\\$12 \(25% off\)](#)

[Amazon](#)

- **Key ingredients:** Allantoin, ceramides, glycerin, hyaluronic acid, squalane, sorbitol
- **Fragrance-free?** Yes
- **Size:** 4 oz.

Best for: Sensitive skin types

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 awarded the Seal of Acceptance by the [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, making it ideal for restocking your beauty cupboard all year round.

- **Pros:** Suitable for sensitive skin; safe for eczema and psoriasis; fragrance-free; affordable
- **Cons:** May not be the best for oily skin types

Frequently asked questions

Why should you use a hand cream?



“Your best defense against dry hands is to moisturize them consistently,” says [Anna Chacon, MD](#), a board-certified dermatologist in Miami. According to Dr. Goldenberg, factors like “cold weather, your environment’s humidity, frequent handwashing, and exposure to irritants (such as plastic or rubber)” may contribute to consistent dehydration, and using a quality hand cream is crucial for strengthening your skin’s natural moisture barrier.

Dr. Chacon also points out that using a nourishing formula is particularly important during cold and flu season: “Washing our hands more often will eventually strip the skin of its natural oils,” resulting in severely dry and potentially irritated hands.

How to choose the best hand cream based on ingredients



When choosing a hand cream, look for creams that have the following types of ingredients:

- **Humectants:** “Glycerin will moisturize and smoothen the skin; meanwhile, [hyaluronic acid](#) hydrates the skin’s surface and protects the barrier,” says Dr. Chacon.
- **Occlusives:** Occlusives create a physical barrier on the skin to lock in moisture. Dr. Goldenberg suggests shopping for formulas with occlusives such as petrolatum, which is a commonly used ingredient that “forms a barrier and protects the skin from outside irritants while moisturizing.”
- **Emollients:** “Thick butters like shea or coconut oil offer ultranourishment while providing an extra layer of protection on the top of the skin,” Dr. Chacon says. Dr. Goldenberg also recommends placing a strong focus on ceramides. “Ceramide-infused products will help repair the skin-barrier function and protect it from environmental irritants,” he explains. As for antioxidant-rich formulas, Dr. Goldenberg says that vitamin E is one of his favorite

ingredients: “It helps repair cells that are damaged, and in oil form, it can also soothe and moisturize the skin.”

Which formulas are best for sensitive or eczema-prone skin?

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“Vanicream, CeraVe, and Eucerin hand creams are examples of great products that would be appropriate for sensitive skin and potentially eczema,” says Dr. Goldenberg.

Dr. Chacon suggests ensuring that your product of choice is “paraben-free, sulfate-free, dye-free, and fragrance-free, as this will help lessen the likelihood of any flare-ups or irritation.” Also, be sure to look out for hand creams that have the [Seal of Acceptance from the National Eczema Association](#).

How often should I apply a hand cream?

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Dr. Goldenberg advises applying hand cream at least once—but ideally twice—per day. That said, if your hands are quite dry and you wash your hands often, he recommends reapplying after every hand washing.

What should I avoid when choosing a hand cream?

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Dr. Goldenberg says that for those with sensitive skin, “avoiding fragrance is important, as fragrance-containing products may cause irritation.”

“Formaldehyde is another ingredient I recommend avoiding,” he says, as it may also result in unnecessary irritation or allergic reactions.

“Look for natural nontoxic ingredients, and avoid dyes and scents when possible,” advises Dr. Chacon.

Is expensive hand cream worth it?

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“You absolutely do not need an expensive hand cream,” says [Lauren Moy, MD](#), a board-certified dermatologist in Beverly Hills. “Especially if hydration is the only concern, regular over-the-counter products work great and are affordable.” So many great drugstore options contain solid, hydrating ingredients such as ceramides, niacinamide, glycerin, and shea butter, and they provide just as much long-lasting moisture as their more expensive counterparts for anyone who has dry hands. Don’t sleep on Vaseline or Aquaphor either: “Simple petroleum-based products like Vaseline and Aquaphor are effective for creating a protective barrier that locks in moisture and promotes healing,” says Dr. Moy. This being said, if you enjoy certain textures, scents, or luxe packaging, an expensive hand cream can be a fun splurge; “however, a luxury price tag doesn’t always mean better results,” she says.

Are there other ways to rehydrate severely dry hands?

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Depending upon where you wash your hands, sometimes it’s hard to avoid soaps that contain sulfates and harsh fragrances, which can easily strip away moisture from the skin. If possible, “look for simple hand-soap formulas, [and] apply hand cream while your skin is still slightly damp so it traps water and maximizes hydration,” says Dr. Moy.

Meet the experts

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- [Gary Goldenberg, MD](#), a medical and cosmetic dermatologist at Goldenberg Dermatology in NYC
- [Anna Chacon, MD](#), a board-certified dermatologist in Miami
- [Lauren Moy, MD](#), a board certified dermatologist in Beverly Hills