

8 Best Hand Creams of 2026: Editor-Tested & Derm-Approved



JL

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I'll be the first to admit it: I spend a copious amount of money on [spa treatments](#) and refining my at-home [skincare routine](#). From my \$78 [Isdin sunscreen](#) and [Paula's Choice Exfoliant](#) to biweekly [facials](#), my focus has

always been on achieving clear, wrinkle-free skin without injections. But after chatting with double board-certified dermatologist [Serena Mraz, MD](#), I realized that I've been neglecting my hands for far too long.

As a New Yorker, I take the subway several times a day for work, events, and to meet up with friends. I'm also a germaphobe and rely on hand sanitizer or harsh soap in office and restaurant bathrooms after riding the train. As a result, my hands are inevitably dry, dull, and rough. That's not exactly the look I'm going for as our [beauty editor](#). It also doesn't help that Dr. Mraz says cumulative sun damage, including dark spots and wrinkles, is one of the biggest culprits in showing my age. Wait, what do you mean my age didn't pause during the pandemic? "Your skin records sun exposure like your car tallies mileage," dermatologist [Hadley King, MD](#), previously told me about how [skincare changes in your 40s](#). "You can't turn back the odometer on your car, and you can't turn back sun damage from your skin."

Hand creams provide instant hydration and support the skin barrier, helping me achieve the baby-soft skin of my dreams. I've noticed that by investing in my favorites lets me reapply less frequently and use a smaller amount of product, ultimately trimming my cost per use. It's beauty math, ladies!

Best Hand Creams of 2026

- Best Overall: [Joonbyrd WonderLand Hand Lotion](#)
- Best Value: [CeraVe Therapeutic Hand Cream](#)
- The Beauty Icon: [L'Occitane Shea Butter Hand Cream](#)
- Best Sink-Side Essential: [Homecourt Hand Cream](#)
- The *Women's Health* Skincare Award Winner: [Beau Domaine The Cream](#)

What to Consider

Formulation

Creams, such as [L'Occitane](#) and [Beau Domaine](#), are the thickest and most nourishing type of hand care products. Dr. Mraz is a fan of creams because they're packed with more lipids than water, which helps deliver the best moisture. The downside is that they take longer to rub into your hands and across larger areas like your arms.

Ointments, such as [Aquaphor](#) and [Vaseline](#), are versatile, fragrance-free moisturizers that relieve dryness without causing irritation, says dermatologist and clinical professor of dermatology [Gary Goldenberg, MD](#). They're made with petrolatum to keep your skin moist, which helps prevent wounds from drying out and forming a scab. These are especially useful when you have super cracked skin.

Lotions are thinner, and more fluid than creams. Some are even runny, but don't worry: the right lotions still restore moisture for instant relief and prevent dryness. Notably, our best overall pick—[Joonbyrd WonderLand Hand Lotion](#)—has a luxurious consistency that feels and smells like it belongs in a spa. It's so enjoyable, I use it all over my body and notice instant hydration without leaving residue on my clothes.

Best Ingredients

The dermatologists I consulted with recommend moisturizing ingredients **glycerin, shea butter, and cocoa butter**— they can be found in many of our suggestions, like Aquaphor and [Juara](#).

Hyaluronic acid is another standout that acts as a moisture magnet, holding up to 1,000 times its weight in water. It's so epic that dermatologists recently told me you can even use [hyaluronic acid on your hair](#) and scalp.

Scent

As our fragrance-obsessed beauty editor, I also factored in the scent profiles. While all of these hand creams smell good, I also highlighted the key notes that make each one stand out. [Homecourt's](#) five impressive aromas—ranging from roses to citrus and aromatic—and [Juara's](#) Bali-

inspired coconut blend are some of my favorites. If scents aren't your thing, opt for [Nécessaire](#). What it lacks in aroma it makes up for in skin-nourishing and soothing ingredients, including ceramides and niacinamide.

How We Chose

Prioritized Dermatologist Recommendations

To kick off this evaluation process, I went directly to medical experts about their no-fail hand creams.

Editors Tested Hand Creams for 3 Years

Our team has been writing about hand creams since 2023. As our beauty editor, I refined our testing methodologies for 2026 to help you avoid buyer's remorse.

I opened the testing pool to 16 hand creams, but only eight were worth the hype. So how did I select them? In addition to ensuring these picks align with dermatological guidance, I compared 2026 launches (Joonbyrd) with reliable heavy-hitters, like L'Occitane and CeraVe. I also rummaged through the *Women's Health* beauty closet and slathered on these hand creams. I started with my hands and explored how they work on different parts of my body, like my rough knees, elbows, and feet.

To narrow the list further, I used these hand creams twice daily for two months. I adored our best overall pick so much that I used it for an entire month straight before even writing this story because it's genuinely that good.

Sensory Experience

I didn't want the hand cream application to feel like a mundane process. To help you actually finish your next tube of hand cream, I evaluated each contender's sensory experience. These factors included fragrance,

texture, absorption time, finish, and if they left any residue on my gloves and tech.

Price and Size

Lastly, I considered each item's cost relative to its product size and quality of ingredients and effectiveness. This final list includes a mix of affordable, mid-range, and splurge-worthy picks that provide varying levels of hydration and other cosmetic-enhancing benefits like lightening age spots.

Ready to make dry hands a thing of the past? Look no further than these eight expert-approved hand creams worthy of a spot in your routine.

Best Deal



[Beau Domaine The Hand & Nail Cream](#)

~~\$59~~\$15

NOW 75% OFF

∨ [JUMP TO REVIEW](#)



Best Overall

[Joonbyrd Wonder-Land Hand Lotion](#)

Now 69% Off

~~\$58~~ [\\$18joonbyrd.com](https://www.joonbyrd.com)

Credit: JL

Pros

- Developed by a certified dermatologist
- Long-lasting hydration
- Great for skin barrier repair

- Instantly soaks into the skin
- Luxurious aroma
- Available in 2 sizes

Cons

- Skip if you prefer creams over lotions

As our beauty editor, I'm constantly searching for the next big thing. My new undisputed no. 1 hand cream hails from the UK and it quickly became my all-time favorite recommendation. Joonbyrd was developed by dermatologist [Alexis Granite, MD](#), who is certified in America and the U.K. Given her elite medical background—Dr. Granite was a clinical instructor at New York-Presbyterian/Weill-Cornell—my expectations of her line were high. I tested it for two months and found it offers long-lasting hydration and skin barrier support.

Joonbyrd offers two hand care products: the featured WonderLand Hand Lotion and the [Confetti Sky Hand Treatment](#). TBH, the latter is compact and more travel-friendly, but I genuinely love the Hand Lotion so much that I apply it to my body. My picky, scent-averse mom also found the sophisticated warm and sweet gourmand notes appealing.

Aroma aside, the formulation and ingredient list are on point. The fast-absorbing, nourishing lotion is made with all my favorite heavy hitters: ceramides, amino acids, and niacinamide. They're basically a trifecta of skincare goodness that repair my skin barrier and hydrate.

Joonbyrd promises its hand lotion is clinically proven to moisturize for up to 48 hours. However, I'm a frequent handwasher, so I can't speak to going two full days without soap and water on my skin. FWIW, I noticed my hands felt softer after 10 days of consistent reapplication, and I can use this lotion twice daily afterward.

I initially tested Joonbyrd for one month straight before comparing it to other picks. (More on that shortly!) Overall, Joonbyrd left my skin softer and more supple. Even acquaintances commented on how soft my hands felt.

How Joonbyrd Compares to Other Hand Creams

To ensure others received a fair assessment during the second month of my testing process, I evaluated how Joonbyrd compared with other options.

- **Joonbyrd vs [L'Occitane](#):** Joonbyrd wins over the French staple, as it's lighter and features a modern formula that strengthens the skin barrier. L'Occitane remains a beauty classic, but if you want something new that you can apply all over your body, opt for Joonbyrd.
- **Joonbyrd vs [CeraVe](#):** Go with the latter if you're a price-conscious shopper or just super sensitive to scents. Hey, it happens to me during the spring, so I totally get it! Joonbyrd is luxurious—the pretty packaging elevates my vanity setup, and the green, textured exterior helps prevent it from rolling off my table.
- **Joonbyrd vs [Aquaphor](#):** Joonbyrd is a non-sticky lotion that absorbs quickly, leaving no pesky residue on my belongings. It's your best bet when your hands require barrier support and nourishment. On the flipside, Aquaphor feels heavy compared to Joonbyrd's formulation, but not as greasy as Vaseline. (More on that soon—promise!)
- **Joonbyrd vs [HomeCourt](#):** Here's where things get tougher. HomeCourt gives off an aspirational, Insta-famous brand vibe, but with hydrating ingredients that enhance my skin. I also like HomeCourt partially because it offers five fragrances ranging from floral to aromatic and citrus. It provides just enough hydration after washing my dishes or hands. Woo! But if I could only own one hand cream, I'd opt for Joonbyrd since it's cosmetically elegant and effective. FWIW, [HomeCourt makes a body care collection](#) if you prefer.
- **Joonbyrd vs [Nécessaire](#):** Both hand creams provide ample skin-replenishing goodness. While the fragrance-free Nécessaire Hand Cream is helpful for anyone with a sensitive nose and skin, I do miss having a variety of the line's signature scents at my disposal.

TL;DR: Overall, Joonbyrd is the best hand cream to beat in 2026. Honestly, the only thing that could make WonderLand even better is if Joonbyrd drops a mini size for travel and my work bag. Until then, I'll continue using this nourishing lotion for its standout ingredients, luxurious feeling, and impressive short- and long-term performance. Plus, the packaging is pretty and adds a fun, feminine touch to my vanity. Aesthetics aside, the container has a nice weight and features a lightly cushioned textured green exterior.

Read more: [Meet the Only Hair Masks That Saved My Dull, Dry Strands](#)



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
Full Size: 300ml (10.14 fl. oz); Travel Size: 50ml (1.69 fl. oz)	Lotion	Ceramides, amino acids, niacinamide	Gourmand





Best Budget Buy

[CeraVe Therapeutic Hand Cream](#)

[\\$11Amazon](#) Also Consider

[\\$12Dermstore](#)

Pros

- Lightweight creamy texture
- Blends easily without tugging the skin

Cons

- Requires more frequent reapplication

CeraVe makes a strong case that you don't have to splurge to enjoy a solid hand cream. For starters, it contains dermatologist-approved and barrier-supporting ingredients, including niacinamide, hyaluronic acid, ceramides, and dimethicone. It also boasts a fragrance-free formula that doesn't irritate sensitive skin.

Although CeraVe describes it as a cream, the consistency reminds me of a custardy lotion that feels supple on my skin without the watered-down feeling of cheaper lotions. It also absorbs quickly and doesn't tug my skin like richer creams when I rub my hands together.

I genuinely enjoy this hand cream and plan to keep it in my rotation. But here's the caveat: It requires more frequent reapplication than thicker creams. But at just \$10 a tube, it's by far the most affordable recommendation, making it a major win in my book. Pick this hand cream if you're shopping on a budget and don't want to skimp on moisture and barrier repair.

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
3 oz.	Cream	Hyaluronic acid, niacinamide, ceramides	5 options, including Cece, an aromatic mix of cardamom, cinnamon, and carrot



The Beauty Icon

[L'Occitane Shea Butter Hand Cream](#)

[\\$34Ulta Beauty](#)

Credit: JL

Pros

- The best scent variety
- Derm-approved

Cons

- Not refillable

Arguably the most famous hand cream of the bunch, L'Occitane's non-greasy formula has earned plenty of love from our beauty team. We previously featured this exact product in our [at-home manicure](#) tutorial and highlighted the brand in our Skincare Awards and guides to the [best spa-worthy bodycare products](#).

So what makes it so iconic? L'Occitane is made with gentle, effective ingredients, such as 20 percent organic shea butter, glycerin, and skin-plumping omegas. The consistency is thick enough to keep my hands hydrated overnight, yet it absorbs relatively fast enough that it won't leave a trail on my keyboard.

If you're like me, before I wrote about beauty for nine years, you're probably a tad excessive with products. The trick is that less is truly more with this South of France staple, and find the ideal amount for you, which varies based on your environment and how active you've been with your hands. I like to squeeze a few sweetpea-sized drops to start, then add more as needed to avoid leaving a heavy, mask-like feeling.

I also can't get over the enticing aroma. It reminds me of a high-end French soap with a soft, almost baby-powder-like aroma, and a touch of warmth from shea butter and almond.



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
12 fl. oz	Cream	Shea butter	5 options, including Cece, an aromatic mix of cardamom, cinnamon, and carrot



Best Fragrance-Free Hand Cream

[Homecourt Hand Cream](#)

[\\$45Amazon](#)

Credit: JL

Pros

- The best scent variety
- Derm-approved

Cons

- Not refillable

Since Courtney Cox launched Homecourt in 2022, the brand's stylish design and hydrating formula elevates handcare into a sensory experience that I always look forward to using. While I'm all in on her [All-Purpose Spray](#), it's her splurge-worthy [Hand Wash](#) and [Hand Cream](#) that seal the deal for me.

For starters, it's the only pick that comes in a sleek black pump, adding a minimal chic touch to my bathroom and kitchen sinks. But what truly shines—and has me buying in bulk—is the velvety-soft texture that absorbs quickly like a lotion but nourishes my hands like a cream. Shea butter is the star that helps condition and soften my skin, while Australian hibiscus flower extract hydrates and protects, and microalgae oil nourishes. The formula quenches my dry hands after washing and drying dishes, and the texture dries down fast without feeling goopy.

And sure, all hand creams on this list smell good, but Homecourt truly excels at scents. Cece, Cox's signature scent, opens up with aromatic notes of Guatemalan cardamom, dried mate absolute leaves, Sri Lankan cinnamon, and carrot. It also features Indonesian patchouli and vetiver oil.

Another standout: Cipres Mint, a mix of Chinese eucalyptus oil and spearmint (naturally!) with black tea, Texan white cedarwood, and dried Indian papyrus. My handcare routine and entire home smell like Cipres Mint, and I always get compliments from houseguests. If you're more into floral aromas, there's Steeped Rose, while citrus fans can gravitate toward Mandarin Basile and Neroli Leaf.

Truthfully, I love Homecourt products and have gifted many hand cream and hand soap sets to loved ones over the years. If I had to nitpick, it would be an improvement if Homecourt sold refills for the hand cream, as they do for the Hand Wash and Surface Cleaner. However, those are liquids in a 1-liter paper pouch that probably couldn't handle the cream's thicker consistency.



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
12 fl. oz	Cream	Shea butter	5 options, including Cece, an aromatic mix of cardamom, cinnamon, and carrot



Best Fragrance-Free Hand Cream

[Nécessaire The Hand Cream](#)

[\\$28Amazon](#)

Credit: JL

Pros

- Hypoallergenic formula
- Safe for sensitive skin, including those with eczema

Cons

- Most expensive recommendation

As our team's resident [Nécessaire](#) fan, I just *had* to introduce you to this fragrance-free hand cream. It's my go-to when my hands are feeling extra sensitive, or during the spring allergy season, when my nose itches and my eyes water at scents. The fast-absorbing hand cream is made without pesky silicones and parabens that could trigger my eczema.

Above all, I appreciate that it's enriched with niacinamide, plus shea and marula butters for instant skin comfort without the heavy feeling of other similar products. The Hand Cream is also made with marula oil, five types of ceramides for hydration, and vitamin E for an antioxidant boost. Its pH-balanced formula also contains vitamin C to help prevent skin dullness.

While I'm totally into the fragrance-free scent, Nécessaire is known for its array of enticing aromas. Currently, there are no scented versions of this hand cream, so if that's a deal breaker for you, then it's best to skip this suggestion.



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
2.2 fl. oz	Cream	Niacinamide, ceramides, vitamins C and E	Fragrance-free



Best for Intensive Repair

[Aquaphor Healing Advanced Therapy Ointment](#)

[\\$13Amazon](#) Also Consider

[\\$13walmart.com](#)

Credit: JL

Pros

- Ideal for very dry hands, lips, and noses
- Gentle and fragrance-free

Cons

- At 7 oz, the smallest size is not compact

Aquaphor and Vaseline are similar drugstore staples—they both use petroleum to lock in moisture and repair the skin barrier. But Aquaphor takes the edge since it contains humectants to draw water to the skin for additional hydration, dermatologist Alicia Zalka, MD, previously told us. It's made with a mineral oil called paraffinum liquidum and a wax called ceresin. There's also soothing bisabolol, and a blend of hydrating glycerin, lanolin, and panthenol.

Since Aquaphor contains more ingredients than Vaseline, it hits the moisturizing trifecta by acting as an occlusive (a thick, protective layer), emollient (trapping moisture in the skin), and humectant (drawing in hydration). It's not the most exciting product on this list, but it's certainly effective and ideal for someone who prefers a no-frills routine. Aquaphor also creates a protective barrier between your skin and the elements during high-altitude skiing and snowboarding sessions.

Need another reason to hit add to cart? Aquaphor is thicker, waxier, and less greasy than Vaseline, making it comfier to apply to my hands. Like the [Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentré](#), This ointment can be applied to other areas of skin, including chapped lips or dry nostrils. However, it's not as multitasking as Lait-Crème, which can be used in six ways versus three. More on that shortly!

Ultimately, you can't go wrong with Aquaphor, especially since it'll only set you back just under-\$13 for a massive 7 oz tube of ointment. While it might be a tad inconvenient for your daily purse, it's still worth ordering. Given its large size, you won't misplace it like with other smaller hand creams and lip balms like I inevitably do. Plus, if you're feeling generous then you can share with your partner or family without worrying about running low for at least two months, depending on where everyone applies the ointment.



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
7 oz	Ointment	Petrolatum, panthenol, glycerin	No scent



The Women's Health Skincare Award Winner

[Beau Domaine The Hand & Nail Cream](#)

Now 75% Off

[\\$59 \\$15beau-domaine.com](#)

Credit: JL

Pros

- Evens out discoloration
- Derm-approved

Cons

- Most expensive recommendation

Dermatologist [Nicole Ruth, DO](#), and the *Women's Health* beauty team are all big fans of Brad Pitt's hand cream, but don't let the celebrity association fool you. We named Beau Domaine the best hand cream in our [2025 Skincare Awards](#), and it's still an essential part of our routines in 2026.

Beau Domaine packs a powerful beauty punch by blending luxury with science, says Dr. Ruth. She points to the grape-derived antioxidants and deeply nourishing moisturizers—shea butter and organic olive oil— that improve both the feel and appearance of your hands.

Most options simply hydrate, but this luxurious hand cream visibly reduces discoloration and refines uneven skin texture, leaving it more luminous. The rich texture also nourishes my hands and softens my cuticles, making it a must before manicures. Given its TSA-friendly size, it's also a must-have during my in-flight beauty routine.

While the upfront cost is a bit jarring, Beau Domaine's dual-action formula justifies the cost. The combination of science-backed ingredients, Dr. Ruth's endorsement, and our coveted Skincare Awards seal of approval fully justifies the cost. Plus, her patients consistently comment that Beau Domaine absorbs quickly, leaves zero greasiness, and gives an immediate smoothing effect while still feeling elegant and silky.



Features at a Glance

Size	Texture	Best Ingredients	Scent
1.7 fl. oz	Cream	Antioxidant-rich grapes, organic olive oil, shea butter	Orange blossom, cedar, sandalwood, benzoin



Best for Eczema-Prone Skin

[Juara Hand & Nail Balm](#)

Now 20% Off

~~\$22~~ [\\$18Amazon](#) Also Consider

[\\$20BirchBox](#)

Pros

- Light, cushiony texture
- Also great for chapped hands

Cons

- Skip if you don't enjoy coconut scents

Deal with itchy, scaly hands? You'll need something offering more intensive hydration without compromising on gentle components. Dr. Ruth recommends this hand cream and says it's a popular pick among her patients with eczema.

The New York-based doctor points to the rich ingredients, such as candlenut oil, illipe butter, and turmeric, which provide long-lasting moisture and antioxidant protection. It's also made with coconut oil, which locks in moisture for overnight hydration. Mangosteen butter gives it a custard-like texture that delivers ample hydration like a cream, but blends easily like a balm.

Another reason I appreciate the texture: it absorbs quickly—I can text quickly or flip through channels without leaving behind residue. The earthy brown tube of Juara lives on my nightstand, and after using it on and off for three months, I can confirm it blends and nourishes like a dream.

Though Juara doesn't make any specific eczema safety certifications, Dr. Ruth doesn't mind it for her patients with that skin condition. TBH, my eczema flares up during the winter and seasonal transitions, but this nourishing cream hasn't caused any sensitivity issues.



Features at a Glance

Size	Formulation	Best Ingredients	Scent
2.5 fl. oz	Custard-like creamy balm	Candlenut oil, illipe butter, and turmeric	Sweet and earthy with coconut notes



Best Multitasking Hand Cream

[Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentré](#)

[\\$19Amazon](#) Also Consider

[\\$17Revolve](#) [\\$16Walmart](#)

Pros

- Can be used on the hands, face, and body
- Compatible with all skin types

Cons

- Sold in 2 sizes, but only the smaller one is available

Embryolisse is a French pharmacy staple trusted by our beauty team and the lead makeup artist on Emily in Paris. Most know Lait-Crème Concentré as a face moisturizer and makeup primer—it leaves my skin dewy even after using retinol—but it functions six ways, including as a hand cream. Wait, what? Mhmmm, I apply a small pea-sized amount of Lait-Crème Concentré to hydrate my hands without feeling greasy or sticky. Chock-full of shea butter and soothing aloe vera, my hands look visibly hydrated and luminous. I rub it into my hands and get back to typing on my laptop or phone within a minute.

With spring travel coming up, carry-on space is limited and valuable. Think of Lait-Crème Concentré as the Swiss army knife of skincare. It works as a moisturizing face mask, after-sun treatment, shaving cream, and cleansing milk—yup, just add a little water for a hydrating wash. This lightweight cream also helps minimize my retinol-related flaking and redness.

TBH, I like pretty much everything about this multipurpose hand cream. The only con is that the larger size is currently out of stock on Amazon. Still, at just \$19 for an icon from the French pharmacy, you can't go wrong, especially since you won't pay tariffs or deal with VAT refunds at CDG airport in Paris.

Meet The Experts

- [Serena Mraz, MD](#), is a double board-certified dermatologist practicing at [Solano Dermatology Associates](#) in California.
- [Nicole Ruth, DO](#), is a board-certified dermatologist practicing at Weiser Skin in New York.
- [Hadley King, MD](#), is a board-certified dermatologist who specializes in cosmetic and medical dermatology in New York.

- [Gary Goldenberg, MD](#), is a board-certified dermatologist who practices at Goldenberg Dermatology in New York. He is also an assistant professor of dermatology and pathology at Mount Sinai's School of Medicine.
- [Alicia Zalka, MD](#), is a board-certified dermatologist practicing at Dermatology Associates of Western Connecticut and works as an associate clinical professor of dermatology at Yale's School of Medicine. She's also the founder of the odor-fighting line [Surface Deep](#).

[Nicole Saunders](#)

Beauty Editor

[Nicole Saunders](#) is the beauty editor at *Women's Health* and has nine years of experience researching, writing, and editing lifestyle content. She specializes in breaking down complicated topics, like [red light therapy for hair growth](#) and [LED face masks](#), into easy-to-understand guides. Saunders takes great pride in heavily researching and testing featured beauty products, such as [strengthening shampoos](#) and [body washes](#) for dry skin on our site.

Previously, she was the beauty editor at Best Products where she tested quite literally thousands of launches for her quarterly column and the Best New Beauty Awards package. She also launched the beauty and wellness coverage at NBC News and contributed to CNN, *Cosmopolitan*, *Billboard*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and *Harper's BAZAAR*.

You can follow her on [Instagram](#) to stay in the loop on her product testing adventures.

[Read full bio](#)



Reviewed by [Christian Gollayan](#)

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Christian is the Style and Reviews Director at Men's Health and Women's Health, where he oversees shopping and style content for both brands. He started his magazine career as an accessories assistant at Vogue, and has since held editorial roles at Tatler Asia and The Manual. When he's not online shopping, you can find him on long walks with his two corgis.
