

These 8 Hand Creams Finally Fixed My Rough, Dry Hands

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I'LL BE THE FIRST 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.

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](#)

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!

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.

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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 five 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.

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 *Women's Health* Beauty Award-winning line [Surface Deep](#).

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