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38 Best Skin-Care Products For Acne of All Time

By [Jessica Harrington](#)

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Sephora | Ulta / TargetPhoto Illustration by Aly Lim

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You've probably [experienced acne](#) at one point or another in your life — be it in your teens, a bit later as an adult, only once a month during your period, or after forgetting to wash off your makeup at night. The fact of the matter is, acne is something around 85 percent of people ages 12 to 24 have dealt with, according to the [American Academy of Dermatology](#). With that in mind, we could all use the best skin-care products for acne — even if you only have to reach for it once in a blue moon.

The market is full of acne skin-care products that can help treat your specific [type of acne](#). From [acne patches](#) that suck the gunk out of pimples overnight to [indulgent face masks](#) that work double duty and cleansers that stop a breakout before it even happens, there's acne treatment products for everyone — and every type of acne — out there.

If your acne presents itself in the form of blackheads, an exfoliating solution that you can use on your T-zone could be just the thing you need. For deep, painful cysts, a combination of a good face wash and a [potent spot treatment](#) can help clear up bumps. But the best products for acne-prone skin don't just address breakouts — they tackle the aftermath of them, too. This can include the best products for acne scars, uneven texture, and hyperpigmentation that stick around long after the pimple is gone.

You don't have to spend hundreds of dollars on products, either — there are options for acne-prone skin at the drugstore that work wonders on pimples, and we included them ahead. Keep scrolling to check out the best skin care for acne.



[dermstore.com](https://www.dermstore.com)

Best Dark Spot Treatment For Acne

[SkinMedica Even and Correct Dark Spot Cream \(\\$88\)](#)

If you're in need of some major brightening, from acne scars or sun spots, the SkinMedica Even and Correct Dark Spot Cream will do the trick. It contains lotus sprout, tranexamic acid, and niacinamide, working together to fade hyperpigmentation. It's also a [2023 POPSUGAR Beauty Award winner](#).



SkinMedica Even and Correct Dark Spot Cream

FROM

\$88

[**\\$88 at Dermstore**](#)



ulta.com

Best Salicylic-Acid Gel For Deep Acne

[I Dew Care Fix My Zit Salicylic Acid Acne Gel \(\\$23\)](#)

It's hard to find an acne gel that works on deep, underground zits, but the I Dew Care Fix My Zit Salicylic Acid Acne Gel does it all. With salicylic acid and citrus unshiu peel, this treatment works in a matter of days. It's also a [2023 POPSUGAR Beauty Award winner](#).



I Dew Care Fix My Zit Salicylic Acid Acne Gel

FROM

\$23

[\\$23 at Ulta](#)



sephora.com

Best Acne Patches

[Peace Out Acne Dots \(\\$19\)](#)

If you're someone who has a habit of picking at your pimples, you need the Peace Out Acne Dots. They keep you from touching your zits so they heal faster and help prevent unnecessary scarring in the process. Put one on a whitehead before bed, and it'll draw out the pus while you sleep.



Peace Out Acne Dots

FROM

\$19

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sephora.com

Best Resurfacing Treatment For Acne Scars

[Murad InvisiScar Resurfacing Treatment \(\\$38\)](#)

The top-rated Murad InvisiScar Resurfacing Treatment can work on both old and new acne marks, filling the pitted scars and leaving a smoother complexion in their

wake. The product is clinically proven to minimize the look of scars' depth and texture and [reduce discoloration](#) in eight weeks.

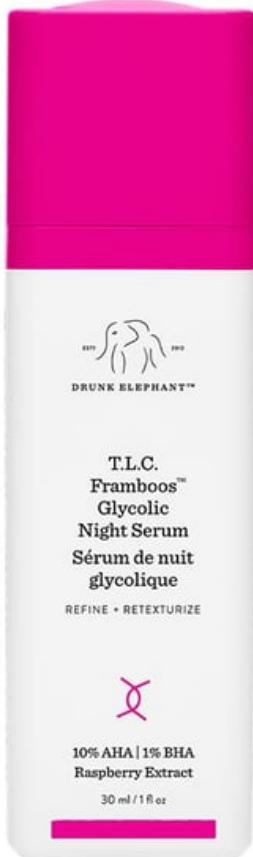


Murad InvisiScar Resurfacing Treatment

FROM

\$38

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[sephora.com](#)

Best Night Serum For Acne

[Drunk Elephant T.L.C. Framboos Glycolic Night Serum \(\\$90\)](#)

The Drunk Elephant T.L.C. Framboos Glycolic Night Serum is a resurfacing AHA serum that helps clear congested pores and reduces the appearance of acne marks and uneven texture.



Drunk Elephant T.L.C. Framboos Glycolic Night Serum

FROM

\$90

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SKIN
BALANCING

Oily
Combination

PAULA'S CHOICE

Invisible Finish Moisture Gel

WITH NIACINAMIDE
+ HYALURONIC ACID

- LIGHTWEIGHT GEL FORMULA
HYDRATES WITHOUT SHINE
- VISIBLY REFINES PORES & DEFENDS
AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS

60 ml / 2 fl. oz.

Best Gel Moisturizer For Acne

[Paula's Choice Skin Balancing Invisible Finish Moisture Gel \(\\$33\)](#)

Slick on the light-as-air Paula's Choice Skin Balancing Invisible Finish Moisture Gel, and watch your pores shrink in size. This gel-like formula feels light on skin but is loaded with antioxidants and niacinamide, which actually improve texture over time.



[Paula's Choice Skin Balancing Invisible Finish Moisture Gel](#)

FROM

\$33

[\\$33 at Amazon](#)



sephora.com

Best Charcoal Moisturizer For Acne

[Origins Clear Improvement Pore Clearing Moisturizer With Salicylic Acid \(\\$40\)](#)

It's an oil-free moisturizer and an acne treatment. The Origins Clear Improvement Pore Clearing Moisturizer With Salicylic Acid can keep skin hydrated without any added ingredients likely to cause more oil buildup or breakouts. Its star ingredient is bamboo charcoal, a very fine powder that's created after bamboo stalks are burned at high temperatures, which also can absorb 100 times its weight in impurities.

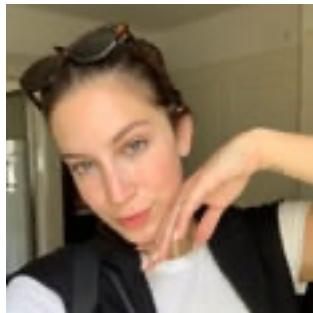


Origins Clear Improvement Pore Clearing Moisturizer With Salicylic Acid

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ulta.com

Best Recovery Balm For Acne

[**Hero Cosmetics Rescue Balm \(\\$13\)**](#)

Picked your pimple? Have no fear: the Hero Cosmetics Rescue Balm is truly a lifesaver. It's like a first-aid ointment that melts into your skin and helps to heal damaged skin. After using it, within just a few days, the mark you made will be gone.



Hero Cosmetics Rescue Balm

FROM

\$13

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skinceuticals.com

Best Matte Sunscreen For Acne

[SkinCeuticals Physical Matte UV Defense SPF 50 \(\\$40\)](#)

The SkinCeuticals Physical Matte UV Defense SPF 50 protects your complexion from the harmful rays of the sun with a noncomedogenic formula that'll keep you shine-free all day. Bonus: it makes a great primer for makeup.



SkinCeuticals Physical Matte UV Defense SPF 50

FROM

\$40

[**\\$40 at SkinCeuticals**](#)



target.com

Best Daytime Leave-On Treatment For Acne

[Neutrogena Stubborn Acne Morning Treatment \(\\$14\)](#)

The Neutrogena Stubborn Acne Morning Treatment uses 2.5 percent benzoyl peroxide to kill acne-causing bacteria. Unlike some acne treatments, it can be used in the morning to help reduce acne during the hours that follow.



Neutrogena Stubborn Acne Morning Treatment

FROM

\$14

[\\$14 at Target](#)



Best Cream For Acne Scars

Topicals Faded (\$38)

The Topicals Faded is designed to target stubborn acne scars and hyperpigmentation. It has a gel-like texture and is packed with a variety of skin-loving ingredients, including inflammatory-fighting centella asiatica leaf extract and licorice root, kojic acid (a gentle exfoliator), and the powerful brightening ingredient, niacinamide.



Topicals Faded

FROM

\$38

[\\$38 at mytopicals.com](https://www.mytopicals.com)



[target.com](#)

Best Benzoyl Peroxide Acne Treatment

[**La Roche-Posay Effaclar Duo Dual Action Acne Treatment \(\\$45\)**](#)

You used to have to visit your dermatologist to get a prescription for a topical treatment as good as the La Roche-Posay Effaclar Duo Dual Action Acne Treatment (\$45), but not anymore. It contains 5.5 percent benzoyl peroxide to target pimples without being too irritating on the skin.



La Roche-Posay Effaclar Duo Dual Action Acne Treatment

FROM

\$45

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SINCE 1851
KIEHL'S
DERMATOLOGIST
SOLUTIONS™

Clearly Corrective™ Dark Spot Solution

Clinically-Demonstrated* to Help
Correct Dark Spots and Discolorations.
For Visible Correction and Clarity.

*with a Potent Complex of
Activated C, White Birch and Peony*

1.0 fl oz. - 30 ml

[ulta.com](#)

Best Serum For Acne Scars

Kiehl's Since 1851 Clearly Corrective Dark Spot Solution (\$65)

Say hello to a brighter, more even complexion with the help of the Kiehl's Since 1851 Clearly Corrective Dark Spot Solution. The hyperpigmentation-fighting serum can be used both morning and night.

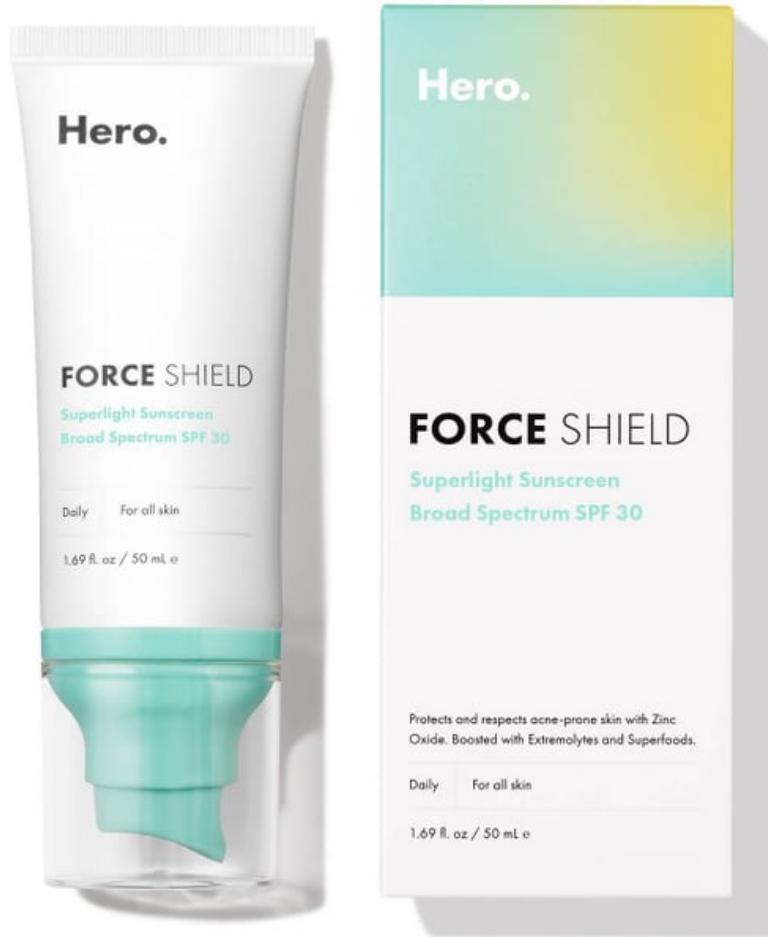


Kiehl's Since 1851 Clearly Corrective Dark Spot Solution

FROM

\$65

[\\$65 at Ulta](#)



target.com

Best Gel Sunscreen For Acne

[Hero Cosmetics Shield Superlight Broad Spectrum Sunscreen SPF 30 \(\\$24\)](#)

There's a misconception that sunscreen makes you break out, when in reality, you just need to find the right formula. The Hero Cosmetics Shield Superlight Broad Spectrum Sunscreen SPF 30 is designed with acne-prone skin types in mind with its lightweight, noncomedogenic formula.



Hero Cosmetics Shield Superlight Broad Spectrum Sunscreen SPF 30

FROM

\$24

[\\$24 at Target](#)



RELATED

Doctors Explain the Difference Between Eczema vs. Psoriasis



[ulta.com](#)

Best Roll-On Treatment For Acne

Burt's Bees Herbal Complexion Stick (\$8)

Have you ever been out and about when suddenly you feel a painful pimple forming under the skin? The Burt's Bees Herbal Complexion Stick is designed for those

moments. The tea tree oil-infused complexion stick features an easy, hands-free applicator so you can treat the spot immediately rather than wait until you get home.



Burt's Bees Herbal Complexion Stick

FROM

\$8

[\\$8 at Ulta](#)



sephora.com

Best Succinic-Acid Treatment For Acne

[The Inkey List Succinic Acid Acne Treatment \(\\$10\)](#)

Formulated with succinic acid, a lesser-known acne-fighting ingredient, The Inkey List Succinic Acid Acne Treatment is both anti-inflammatory and antibacterial.



The Inkey List Succinic Acid Acne Treatment

FROM

\$10

[\\$10 at Sephora](#)



reneerouleau.com

Best Gel Mask For Acne

Renée Rouleau Rapid Response Detox Masque (\$66)

The shimmery, yellow color of the Renée Rouleau Rapid Response Detox Masque makes it look like a pot of gold — and as far as we're concerned, it is. The refreshing, gel formula of the mask both hydrates and fights acne.



Renée Rouleau Rapid Response Detox Masque

FROM

\$66

[\\$66 at Renée Rouleau Inc.](#)



[target.com](#)

Best Body Mist For Acne

[Versed Back-Up Plan Acne-Control Body Mist \(\\$18\)](#)

The Versed Back-Up Plan Acne-Control Body Mist banishes acne on your body with an easy-to-use 360-degree spray nozzle. And no, it doesn't leave you with that gross, sticky feeling after.



Versed Back-Up Plan Acne-Control Body Mist

FROM

\$18

[\\$18 at Target](#)

OLEHENRIKSEN
BALANCE



Cold Plunge
Pore Mask

Clay & snow lotus extract
Argile et extrait de lotus
des neiges

Best Mask For Blackheads

Ole Henriksen Cold Plunge Pore Mask (\$41)

The Ole Henriksen Cold Plunge Pore Mask simulates the feeling of sticking your face in a cold bucket of water — in a really good way. The mask gets deep into your pores to absorb oil and dirt without making your skin feel tight.



Ole Henriksen Cold Plunge Pore Mask

FROM

\$41

[\\$41 at Sephora](#)



Best LED Device For Acne

LightStim for Acne (\$169)

Blue LED light has been found to help promote clear skin by killing acne-causing bacteria before it reaches the surface. The LightStim for Acne is a handheld wand that targets acne and reduces inflammation with a short, three-minute treatment.



LightStim for Acne

FROM

\$169

[\\$169 at Dermstore](#)

NEW

CeraVe®

DEVELOPED WITH DERMATOLOGISTS

Acne Foaming Cream Cleanser

4% BENZOYL PEROXIDE
ACNE TREATMENT

Clears acne pimples
& blackheads, helps prevent
new acne & allows skin to heal

Maintains the skin barrier
& leaves skin feeling comfortable

With 3 essential ceramides,
hyaluronic acid & niacinamide

4% BENZOYL PEROXIDE

5 FL OZ (150ml)

ulta.com

Best Foaming Cleanser For Acne

CeraVe Acne Foaming Cream Cleanser (\$19)

The CeraVe Acne Foaming Cream Cleanser is formulated with a blend of acne-fighting benzoyl peroxide and skin-nourishing ceramides to help clear breakouts without being too harsh.



CeraVe Acne Foaming Cream Cleanser

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probiotics & superfoods

TULA
SKINCARE

the cult classic
purifying
face cleanser

le nettoyant
visage



6.7 FL OZ./200ml e

[ulta.com](#)

Best Gel Cleanser For Acne

Tula The Cult Classic Purifying Face Cleanser (\$34)

As its name suggests, the Tula The Cult Classic Purifying Face Cleanser is a cult favorite. The gentle gel face wash removes dirt and oil from the surface of your skin without stripping it of moisture.



Tula The Cult Classic Purifying Face Cleanser

FROM

\$34

[\\$34 at Ulta](#)



[target.com](#)

Best Drying Lotion For Acne

[Mario Badescu Skincare Drying Lotion \(\\$17\)](#)

We've sworn by the Mario Badescu Skincare Drying Lotion since middle school. The formula has a superhero-like ability to shrink a formidable breakout in mere hours.



Mario Badescu Skincare Drying Lotion

FROM

\$17

[\\$17 at Target](#)



vivantskincare.com

Best Exfoliating Cleanser For Acne

Vivant Skincare Mandelic Acid 3-in-1 Exfoliating Cleanser (\$28)

Not only do we swear by the Vivant Skincare Mandelic Acid 3-in-1 Exfoliating Cleanser for our [keratosis pilaris](#), but it's also an effective remedy for bacne and butt blemishes. Just be warned: the formula is *strong* and may irritate your skin upon first use.



Vivant Skincare Mandelic Acid 3-in-1 Exfoliating Cleanser

FROM

\$28

[\\$28 at vivantskincare.com](http://www.vivantskincare.com)



[target.com](#)

Best Adapalene Gel Treatment For Acne

Differin Adapalene Gel 0.1% Acne Treatment (\$18)

The beauty of the Differin Adapalene Gel 0.1% Acne Treatment is that it helps with hyperpigmentation from old pimples, as well as decongests pores to prevent new ones. Just note: it's a powerful treatment, so start off slowly with application once a week and work your way up to every other or every day.

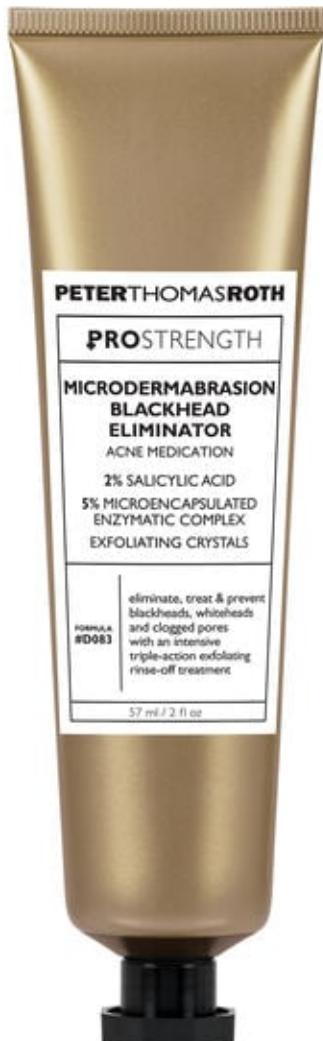


Differin Adapalene Gel 0.1% Acne Treatment

FROM

\$18

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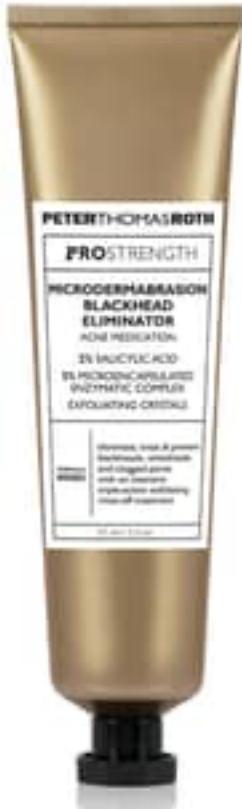
sephora.com

Best Face Scrub For Blackheads

[**Peter Thomas Roth PRO Strength Microdermabrasion Blackhead Eliminator \(\\$68\)**](#)

The gritty paste of the Peter Thomas Roth PRO Strength Microdermabrasion Blackhead Eliminator hits breakouts with triple-action exfoliation. The combination

of chemical, enzymatic, and physical exfoliation removes dirt from deep within your pores.



Peter Thomas Roth PRO Strength Microdermabrasion Blackhead Eliminator

FROM

\$68

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sephora.com

Best Liquid Exfoliant For Acne

[**Paula's Choice Skin Perfecting 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant \(\\$34\)**](#)

If you're looking for a product that will unlock brighter, smoother skin while also keeping breakouts from popping up, try the Paula's Choice Skin Perfecting 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant.



Paula's Choice Skin Perfecting 2% BHA Liquid Exfoliant

FROM

\$34

[\\$34 at Sephora](#)



firstaidbeauty.com

Best Clay Mask For Acne

[First Aid Beauty Pharma Calamine Pore Purging Mask \(\\$30\)](#)

The First Aid Beauty Pharma Calamine Pore Purging Mask sucks your pores clean without drying out your skin. This is all thanks to two types of clay, kaolin and bentonite, that absorb oil and dirt.



First Aid Beauty Pharma Calamine Pore Purging Mask

FROM

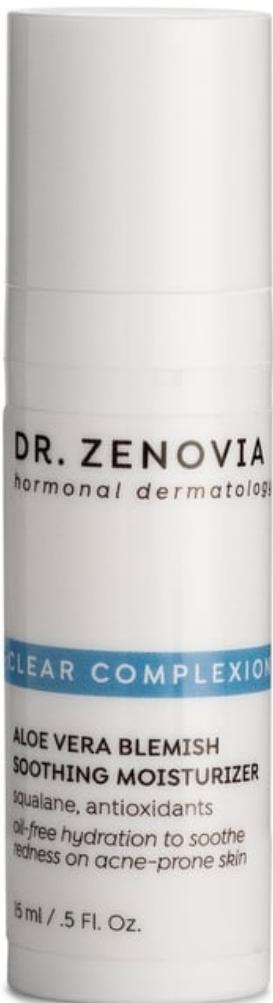
\$30

[**\\$30 at First Aid Beauty**](#)



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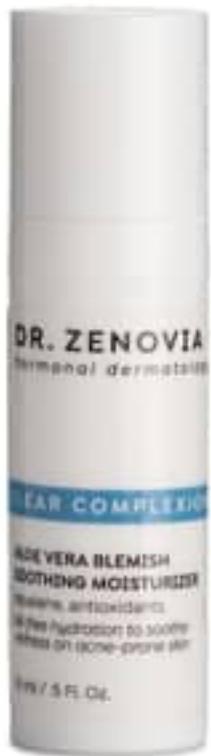


[sephora.com](#)

Best Soothing Moisturizer For Acne

[Dr. Zenovia Aloe Vera Blemish Soothing Moisturizer \(\\$38\)](#)

It's a myth that acne-prone skin doesn't require a moisturizer — it just needs the right product. The Dr. Zenovia Aloe Vera Blemish Soothing Moisturizer helps hydrate your skin, smooth uneven texture, and soothe redness and irritation from acne breakouts all at once.



Dr. Zenovia Aloe Vera Blemish Soothing Moisturizer

FROM

\$38

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sephora.com

Best Toner For Acne

[Bioassance Squalane + BHA Pore Minimizing Toner \(\\$30\)](#)

Apply some of the Bioassance Squalane + BHA Pore Minimizing Toner onto a cotton pad, and swipe it over your skin to get the benefits of gentle, pore-clearing chemical exfoliation. It also contains squalane, which helps hydrate the skin.



Bioassance Squalane + BHA Pore Minimizing Toner

FROM

\$30

[\\$30 at Sephora](#)



ulta.com

Best Niacinamide Serum For Acne

The Ordinary Niacinamide 10% + Zinc 1% (\$6)

Niacinamide, the hero ingredient in The Ordinary Niacinamide 10% + Zinc 1%, helps treat active breakouts, as well as brighten skin tone and smooth uneven texture.



The Ordinary Niacinamide 10% + Zinc 1%

FROM

\$6

[\\$6 at Ulta](#)



sephora.com

Best Gel Treatment For Acne

[Dr. Dennis Gross DRx Blemish Solutions Acne Eliminating Gel \(\\$42\)](#)

Whether you're dealing with maskne or hormonal breakouts, the Dr. Dennis Gross DRx Blemish Solutions Acne Eliminating Gel will help clear it up with a blend of two-percent salicylic acid, niacinamide, and monk's pepper. The lightweight gel absorbs quickly and wears well under makeup.



Dr. Dennis Gross DRx Blemish Solutions Acne Eliminating Gel

FROM

\$42

[\\$42 at Sephora](#)



amazon.com

Best Mattifying Moisturizer For Acne

[Cetaphil Gentle Clear Mattifying Acne Moisturizer With 0.5% Salicylic Acid \(\\$11\)](#)

Keep oil at bay all day long with the Cetaphil Gentle Clear Mattifying Acne Moisturizer With 0.5% Salicylic Acid. It not only keeps you shine-free, but salicylic acid in the formula also helps fight breakouts.



Cetaphil Gentle Clear Mattifying Acne Moisturizer With 0.5% Salicylic Acid

FROM

\$11

[\\$11 at Amazon](#)



[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Best Spot Treatment Gel For Acne

Perricone MD Acne Relief Maximum Strength Spot Gel (\$15)

The Perricone MD Acne Relief Maximum Strength Spot Gel is a favorite among editors and Amazon shoppers alike. The tube may be tiny, but a little bit goes a long way because of how potent it is.



Perricone MD Acne Relief Maximum Strength Spot Gel

FROM

\$15

[\\$15 at Amazon](#)



target.com

Best Hydrating Moisturizer For Acne

[Clinique Moisture Surge 100 Hour Auto-Replenishing Hydrator \(\\$28\)](#)

The oil-free, noncomedogenic formula of the Clinique Moisture Surge 100 Hour Auto-Replenishing Hydrator makes it great for those with acneic skin. The beauty of this moisturizer is it doesn't contain acne-fighting ingredients, so you don't have to worry about it causing any irritation when used with your other acne treatments.

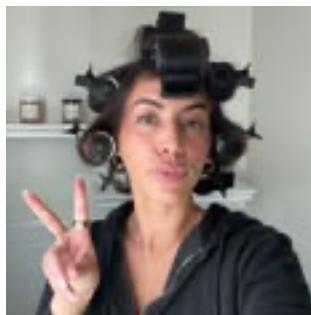


Clinique Moisture Surge 100 Hour Auto-Replenishing Hydrator

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\$28

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[target.com](https://www.target.com)

Best Drugstore Spot Treatment For Acne

[Clean & Clear Advantage Spot Treatment With Witch Hazel \(\\$10\)](#)

Simply dab a little bit of the Clean & Clear Advantage Spot Treatment With Witch Hazel onto an active breakout, and watch it start to disappear before your eyes.



Clean & Clear Advantage Spot Treatment With Witch Hazel

FROM

\$10

[\\$10 at Target](#)



sephora.com

Best Salicylic Acid Face Wash For Acne

Dermalogica Clearing Skin Wash (\$42)

The Dermalogica Clearing Skin Wash, formulated with salicylic acid, fights breakouts before they happen. What's more, green tea in the cleanser helps calm irritation and menthol provides your skin with a cooling sensation.



Dermalogica Clearing Skin Wash

FROM

\$42

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target.com

Best Benzoyl Peroxide Cleanser For Acne

[PanOxyl Anti-Microbial Acne Foaming Wash With 10% Benzoyl Peroxide \(\\$12\)](#)

The PanOxyl Anti-Microbial Acne Foaming Wash With 10% Benzoyl Peroxide is a powerful, acne-blasting cleanser that has maximum-strength benzoyl peroxide. It's great for your face, chest, and back.



PanOxyl Anti-Microbial Acne Foaming Wash With 10% Benzoyl Peroxide

FROM

\$12

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