

Hot-button sunscreen news has been making headlines recently. The GH Beauty Lab and top skin doctors cut through the confusion to keep your skin protected

GΗ BEAUTY LAB

FUTURE

YOUR LOOK sun special

(and youthful!) all summer long by APRIL FRANZINO burning question DOIREALLY NEED SPF IN



THE SHADE? BEAUTY LAB SAYS: You should never skip sunscreen:

A new study found that 78% of people who used only an umbrella on a sunny beach day burned, versus 25% of those who used only SPF, likely because shade doesn't block UV light from all angles. Your best bet is tripling up, says GH Beauty Lab Director Birnur Aral, Ph.D.: "Apply sunscreen, stay in the shade and wear sun-protective clothing and sunglasses." burning question DO SUNSCREENS

CAUSE CANCER? **BEAUTY LAB SAYS:** Despite

negative rumors about certain sunscreen ingredients (like oxybenzone), "there's no data to suggest that any ingredients in U.S. sunscreens are in amounts that could potentially cause cancer," says Elizabeth K. Hale, M.D., a New York City dermatologist and a senior vice president of the Skin Cancer Foundation. "They are proven safe and effective to prevent skin cancer and premature skin aging with regular use."

YOUR LOOK sun special HOT TIP Slather SPF all over before you dress to ensure full coverage (and avoid tan lines!). burning question But high SPF numbers can burning question give a false sense of secu-IS IT TRUE

has been talk that as SPF numbers increase, the boost in protection is minimal. But that doesn't mean you should rely only on SPF 15. "Our tests have shown that

NECESSARY?

ARE HIGH SPFS

BEAUTY LAB SAYS: There

ACTUALLY

people apply about one-third the amount of sunscreen necessary to achieve the SPF listed on the label," Aral says. "So we recommend using at least broad-spectrum SPF 50 to compensate." More reason to go high: "SPF 30 filters 96.7% of UV rays, meaning it allows 3.3% to reach skin, while SPF 60 filters 98.3%, allowing 1.7% through," explains Steven Q. Wang, M.D., dermatologist and cofounder of Dr. Wang Herbal Skincare. "So SPF 30 actually lets twice as much UV reach skin as SPF 60." 26 GH JUNE 2017 LIGHTER best of the test

UP TO WATER AND SWEAT? BEAUTY LAB SAYS: Only for

rity, so remember to reapply

at least every two hours.

burning question

CAN SPF STAND

a certain amount of time. While the FDA used to allow sunscreens to be labeled water- and sweat-proof;

regulations now mandate they can be labeled only water- and sweat-resistant (up to 40 or 80 minutes), because no sunscreen can be completely impervious to water and sweat (just as no sunscreen can totally "block" the sun's rays). The labeling means the formula maintained its SPF level on testers' skin in a water bath for the indicated time, Dr. Wang says; beyond that, it should be reapplied.

STOP BURNS? BEAUTY LAB SAYS: You may have seen reports that

THAT NOT ALL

SUNSCREENS

people burned when using certain sunscreens. But our experts agree: Sunscreens work if used correctly - and

you have to reapply at least every two hours. "Sunscreens are very effective at preventing sunburn," Dr. Hale says. "Burns are more likely a reflection of people not using enough sunscreen with a high enough SPF and not reapplying regularly." For the best protection, apply sunscreen liberally on all exposed areas before going outdoors (a shot glass-full for the body, a nickel-size dollop for the face; spread sprays evenly by hand), Aral says. Layer on Keep resistance bands in your travel bag-you'll never forget 'em on the go.

SUNSCREENS BETTER? **BEAUTY LAB SAYS: There** is no clear definition of the

a second coat "to help cover spots you missed the first time," Dr. Wang suggests.

burning question

ARE NATURAL

word "natural" for personalcare products; for sunscreen, the term often refers to one

that contains only mineral titanium dioxide and zinc oxide (a.k.a. "physical" SPFs) for sun protection. But in fact "there's no such thing as a truly 'natural' sunscreen, because the ingredients need to be treated in chemical processes when added to formulas to prevent harmful reactions," Dr. Wang says. Both chemical and physical sunscreens are proven safe and effective The Beauty Lab's top-tested mineral SPF: MDSolar-**Sciences Mineral Moisture** Defense SPF 50 for Body, \$39, mdsolarsciences.com. BEST OF THE TEST

FACE

Specifically designed for



FOR DRY/ SENSITIVE SKIN AVEENO PROTECT + H AVEENO PROTECT + HYDRATE LOTION SUNSCREEN WITH BROAD SPECTRUM SPF 50 FOR FACE, \$10

COMBINATION SKIN ALGENIST SUBLIME DEFENSE ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT UV DEFENSE FLUID SPF 50, \$28, SEPHORA

> GH BEAUTY

> > LAB

HOW WE TESTED We evaluated new body sunscreens,

Ease of application Feel and look on skin

BODY SUNSCREEN

measuring 303 consumers' ratings for performance on: Experts agree the best SPF is one you want to use (over and over!). Here, the winning formulas that work - and that you'll love

100

94 100 in a mild formula:



look or sweaty feel - the best I've ever tried," another reported. It had a cooling effect, too.

other outdoor exercise. KIEHL'S ACTIVATED SUN PROTECTOR WATER-LIGHT LOTION FOR FACE & BODY SPF 50, \$29, KIEHLS.COM

pool, on the beach, swimming or doing

LAB LOWDOWN Consumer results showed that it effectively protected

skin even while testers were by the



93 100 RUNNER-UP

NONDRYING FORMULA Made with hydrating glycerin, Banana Boat was the favorite for not leaving skin feeling dry, yet being smooth and

non-goopy. TESTER NOTES "My skin felt moisturized in the sun and heat," one said. Others liked the not-too-thick consistency.

LAB LOWDOWN It received a nearperfect score for flawless application.

MAND EASILY RELIEVES SPRAYS BEST SPRAY The top mist of the test, sheer Banana Boat earned the

Sun Comfort

highest marks on many fronts: great

texture, absorption, not leaving residue or feeling tacky, not rubbing off or staining and rinsing off easily.

TESTER NOTES It went on effortlessly, and its slightly sweet, fruity scent was the favorite. "I'll continue to use this," a tester said.

LAB LOWDOWN Users rated it well for preventing sunburn

during a range of

outdoor activities.

SUNSCREEN SPF 50, \$8

BANANA BOAT SUNCOMFORT

For a faux ice cream, blend frozen bananas, cinnamon and nutmeg.

RUNNER-UP **GENTLE MIST** Powerful sun protection 93/100 Coppertone beat the

TESTER NOTES "It didn't irritate my sensitive skin," one said. "I liked that the fragrance was almost nonexistent." another raved. "My skin felt good all day."

LAB LOWDOWN Users indicated that the mist provided good sun protection, went on easily and had a clear, dry-touch finish. COPPERTONE CLEARLYSHEER SPRAY SUNSCREEN SPF 50, \$8

other top sunscreens

or irritation.

in not causing stinging





lifestyles, Neutrogena scored points in several arenas, including going on quickly, not depositing white residue and not staining. **TESTER NOTES**

Users remarked on how

well the fresh-scented spray worked, even "during 10-mile hikes in up to 100°F sunny weather."

NEUTROGENA COOLDRY SPORT

keeping skin safe from



92 100

LAB LOWDOWN Consumers ranked it

among the best for

BANANA BOAT SUNCOMFORT LOTION SUNSCREEN SPF 50, \$6