

INGREDIENT GLOSSARY



ALGIN • A sodium salt extracted from brown dried seaweed. Used as a stabilizer in cosmetics. It is slowly soluble in water, forming a very thick liquid.

ALLANTOIN • Healing agent derived from the root of the comfrey plant. An anti-irritant with healing and soothing properties. This ingredient stimulates the growth of healthy skin and tissue repair.

ALOE VERA • A wild cactus, the juice of which hastens skin healing and reduces inflammation as well as moisturizing and soothing the skin.

ALPHA HYDROXY ACIDS (AHA's) • From natural fruit and sugar cane acids; AHA's penetrate the skin and increase cell turnover by removing dry, dead cells, thereby revealing younger, fresher looking skin. AHA's help smooth the skin, eliminate spots and even out skin color.

ANTI-OXIDANTS • Antioxidants are derived from Vitamins A, C and E and plants such as green tea, pine bark, and oak. These ingredients protect and extend the life of skin cells and are the key to warding off wrinkles and other tell-tale signs of age. They work by neutralizing free radicals, destructive molecules, that researchers believe to be responsible for the aging process.

APRICOT KERNEL OIL • Oil extracted from the apricot kernel. Its emollient and moisturizing properties help to soften and smooth the skin.

ARGIRELINE • Formulations such as acetyl hexapeptide-3 that can produce a mild botox-like effect, inhibiting the release of neurotransmitters that keep facial muscles from forming wrinkles.

ARNICA EXTRACT • or Wolf's Bane as it is sometimes known, is produced from the dried flower head of an herb native to the Northern Hemisphere. Used as a healing and soothing agent for skin disorders and bruises and to stimulate skin renewal.

AVOCADO OIL • Avocado oil - extracted from avocados - is an emollient with moisturizing properties to help smooth, soften and nourish the skin with vitamins A, D, and E.

BALM MINT EXTRACT • A fragrant resin obtained from the evergreen trees native to Africa and Asia, known for its healing and soothing properties. Often used in products for sensitive or blemished skin.

BUTCHER'S BROOM EXTRACT • An herb native to Europe, known to improve circulation and have anti-inflammatory properties. Used also for its tightening and toning abilities.

CALENDULA OFFICINALIS EXTRACT • This extract comes from the common flower, marigold, in the daisy family native to the Mediterranean. It has been used in the region since the ancient Greeks, and by Indian and Arabic cultures before the Greeks for use in herbal medicine for bruising and injuries and as an antiseptic and wound healer. Modern plant pharmacological studies indicate that Calendula extracts have antiviral, and anti-inflammatory properties. It is used topically to treat acne, minor wounds, burns and abrasions.

CAMELLIA OIL • A tropical Asiatic evergreen shrub or small tree with reddish or white flowers used to scent perfumes.

CASTOR OIL • A vegetable oil obtained from the castor bean (technically a seed) containing between 40% and 60% oil that is rich in triglycerides, mainly ricinolein with some Oleic and Linoleic Acids. The use of cold pressed castor oil in folk medicine predates government medical regulations. Uses include skin problems, burns, sunburns, skin disorders, skin cuts, and abrasions. Castor oil penetrates deep into the skin due to its heavy molecular weight.

CETYL ALCOHOL • Natural fatty alcohol used as an emollient. It is also used as a stabilizer.

CHAMOMILE EXTRACT • Leaves from this herb produce a substance that soothes and heals the skin, reduces inflammation and improves tissue regeneration.

CITRUS EXTRACT • Has curative and disinfectant qualities and helps prevent infection.

CLOVER HONEY EXTRACT • An herb used as an emollient in cosmetics.

COCOA BUTTER • A pale-yellow, pure vegetable fat extracted from the cacao bean, one of the most stable fats known, containing natural antioxidants. It is an emollient that melts at body temperature so is readily absorbed into the skin and it creates a barrier between skin and the environment which helps retain moisture. It is often recommended for treatment of eczema and dermatitis.

COMEDOGENIC • Used to describe a product or ingredient that clogs the pores when applied to the skin.

COMFREY EXTRACT • An herb plant containing allantoin. It moisturizes by increasing the water content of skin cells and stimulates the shedding of upper layers of dead skin cells. It increases the smoothness of the skin by promotion of cell proliferation and wound healing.

CONEFLOWER EXTRACT • A flower native to North America known as an anti-inflammatory, antiseptic and healing agent for oily and blemished skin.

CRUSHED APRICOT SHELL • A tart orange-colored fruit. The oil extracted is used as a facial mask to soften the skin. The shells ground to small particles are used in facial scrub products.

CUCUMBER EXTRACT • Juice extracted from the cucumber that is used to help reduce puffiness in the skin. Excellent for toning and firming the skin.

DEIONIZED WATER • Purified water, having had all minerals and organic contaminants, including microbes, removed.

DIPALMITOYL HYDROXY PROLIN • Its main property is that it blocks the enzyme that destroys Elastin, a component of the skin responsible for its elasticity and tone. DHP increases the elasticity and softness of the skin, and demonstrates an anti-inflammatory effect and moisturizing ability.

ELDER FLOWER EXTRACT • Honey-scented flowers of the elder tree which help keep the skin soft and supple.

EMOLLIENT • An agent used to soften and smooth the skin.

EMULSIFIER • An agent that binds ingredients together to ensure a stable product formulation.

ERGOCALCIFEROL (VITAMIN D) • Obtained from milk, fish and eggs, or produced by ultraviolet irradiation of sterols. Used in creams and lotions for skin healing properties. It is absorbable through the skin.

ESSENTIAL OILS • Or Volatile Oils are found in various plants. They usually constitute the savory and odorous principles of the plant in which they exist. These oils are all natural and extremely fragrant.

FREE RADICALS • A family of biological thugs that attack the core of skin's structure, causing everything from aging and inflammation to acne and cellulite. Free radicals in the body cause cell damage by stealing electrons from other body cells, weakening or killing them in the process. When this happens, cell membranes lose resiliency, skin begins to sag, wrinkles deepen and age spots darken. Free radicals erode healthy cells similar to the way oxygen rusts metal, slowly wearing down the body's organs, weakening the immune system and breaking down tissues. Free radicals are triggered by exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from sunlight, fluorescent lights, tanning beds, intense heat, tobacco smoke (direct and secondhand), car exhaust, stress, charbroiled foods, saturated fats, antibiotics and other medications, and too much alcohol.

GENTIAN EXTRACT • Derived from the bitter root of a plant native to Europe used as an astringent and cleanser.

GERANIUM OIL • Fragrant essential oil extraction from the geranium flower used to scent products.

GINKGO BILOBA EXTRACT • Popularity of the Ginkgo tree revolves primarily around the extracts from its biloba (two-lobed) leaves and the inner seed of the fruit. The extract increases blood flow to the blood vessels for better circulation, and provides powerful antioxidants to counter the effects of free radicals.

GINSENG EXTRACT • Derived from the root of the ginseng plant, it is used in skin care products for aging and dry complexions, to increase subcutaneous circulation.

GLUCOSAMINE HCL • Activates both the epidermal and dermal cells resulting in improved cell renewal and increased production of hyaluronic acid and collagen.

GOTU KOLA EXTRACT • A creeping plant native to subtropical and tropical climates, promotes wound healing by strengthening connective tissues and restoring the macromolecules that give the skin elasticity. The enduring popularity of gotu kola is attributed to active ingredients known as triterpenes. These substances enhance the production of the tough, fibrous protein known as collagen, which is found in cartilage, bones, and connective tissues. Triterpenes also help to keep blood vessels strong.

GLYCERIN • A natural emollient, used to prevent the loss of water through evaporation and absorb moisture from the air.

GLYCERYL STEARATE • An emulsifying and thickening agent used in creams and lotions.

GLYCOLIC ACID • Derived from sugar cane extract, one of the main Alpha-Hydroxy acids used in cosmetics as an exfoliant. It stimulates new formation of collagen to plump cells and reduces wrinkles on the skin's surface. Glycolic acid reacts with the upper layer of the epidermis, weakening the binding properties of the lipids that hold the dead skin cells together. It allows the outer skin to "dissolve" revealing the underlying skin.

GRAPE SEED EXTRACT • Studies show that grape seed contains OPC antioxidants which prevent cell damage caused by free radicals. This extract also has proanthocyanidins which accelerate wound healing.

GREEN TEA EXTRACT • Native to China, green tea is a hearty evergreen shrub from the camellia family. The extract provides antioxidants which help to ward off everyday cellular attack and to protect the skin from damage and aging due to Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure. Its effects are fortified when used in combination with other antioxidant extracts.

HOPS EXTRACT • Derived from the pinecone-like fruit of the hop plant. Used as a skin soother and healer.

HORSE CHESTNUT EXTRACT • Derived from the nut of a tree native to Eurasia, this extract is used to stimulate subcutaneous circulation, tighten pores and tone the skin. It also has anti-inflammatory properties.

HORSETAIL EXTRACT • A rushlike flowerless plant. Used as a natural astringent and healing agent. Strengthens the skin's connective tissue and improves elasticity.

HUMECTANT • An ingredient which has an attraction to water and can absorb water from the atmosphere. It preserves the moisture content of the skin.

HYALURONIC ACID • A major component of Mucopolysaccharides and a natural moisturizing factor found in human cells. This humectant has powerful water-binding abilities as it holds as much as 1000 times its own weight in water. It helps keep the skin moist, pliable, supple and youthful.

HYDROLYZED • The breaking down of complex proteins into small fragments by their reaction with water.

HYDROLYZED FIBRONECTIN • A fibrous link in connective tissue derived by acid, enzyme, or other method of hydrolysis (decomposition that changes a compound into other compounds by taking up the elements of water).

HYDROLYZED WHEAT PROTEIN • Hydrolysate of wheat protein derived by acid, enzyme or other method of hydrolysis.

HYPERICUM EXTRACT • A ruby-red oily extract with strong antibiotic properties. It has been used for hundreds of years for healing wounds.

HYPOALLERGENIC • A term used to signify cosmetics that are devoid of "most" allergens and "least likely to cause an allergic reaction."

IVY EXTRACT • Extract of the climbing ivy plant. Used in skin care products to increase subcutaneous circulation and to act as an analgesic on cuts and bruises. Also used in creams.

JOJOBA OIL • Softens and lubricates the skin.

JUNIPER EXTRACT • An antiseptic, it is often used to help soothe the skin.

KELP EXTRACT • A marine plant containing many minerals that have anti-inflammatory properties. Helps to regulate the texture of the skin.

LAVENDER OIL • An essential oil extract from the aromatic lavender plant. Used to soften dry skin, known for its antiseptic and soothing properties.

LECITHIN • Obtained from soybeans, an antioxidant and emollient.

LEMON EXTRACT (FRUIT ACID) • lemon extract is the water soluble portion of the lemon peel used as a source for A.H.A.

LEMON PEEL EXTRACT • An extract that tones and stimulates the skin with anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties.

LINOLEIC ACID • A component of Vitamin F. A trace essential oil.

MACADAMIA NUT OIL • Contains the highest level of palmitoleic acid of any plant oil. This is found in human sebum among the young, with levels dropping dramatically in mature skin. Tones aged or dry skin, softens skin, heals wounds and penetrates the skin very quickly. Macadamia fatty acids are helpful in maintaining the skin's critical water barrier functions.

MANGO BUTTER • Has natural emollient properties, high oxidative ability, wound healing and regenerative activity. Mango Butter has been traditionally used for its skin softening, soothing, moisturizing and protective properties and to restore flexibility and reduce degeneration of skin cells. It has a protective effect against UV radiation.

MATRIXYL (PALMITOYL PENTAPEPTIDE-3) PEPTIDES • Small proteins that stimulate the production of collagen.

MINERAL OIL • Odorless and clear oil derived from petroleum. Used as a lubricant and to help delay loss of moisture from the skin. Also used as a carrier oil for other oils.

MUGWORT EXTRACT • An extract taken from dried stems and leaves of the plant, a member of the daisy family. This plant is known for its various medicinal effects and has been used for centuries in many cultures. It is used for antibacterial and antifungal properties and is used for its soothing properties and to treat dermatitis.

NON-COMEDOGENIC • Contains no ingredients known to cause blemishes or clog pores, or which can be associated with acne.

OATS EXTRACT • Oats extract is used in moisturizing, anti-aging products as well as in products that are used to alleviate acne, pimples and to treat various problems in skin. It has a firming and toning effect and obtains great anti-irritant and anti-inflammatory properties. It helps fade freckles and age spots.

ORANGE PEEL EXTRACT • orange peel extract is a water soluble portion of the orange skin and is used as an antiseptic.

PANTHENOL • A member of the B-vitamin complex (B 5) used to promote regeneration of damaged skin. Also moisturizes and revives dry and damaged skin.

PAPAYA EXTRACT • An excellent cleansing material and helps even skin discolorations.

PASSION FRUIT EXTRACT (FRUIT ACID) • A cleansing, astringent and anti-inflammatory material.

pH BALANCE • The scale used to measure acidity or alkalinity. The pH of a substance is rated on a scale of 1-14. A pH of 7 is neutral. (Water is pH 7). Any pH below 7 is acidic; any pH above 7 is alkaline.

PHOSPHOLIPIDS • A primary component of cell membranes that stabilises creams and lotions without irritating surfactants. The unique affinity of this membrane lipid to the skin enhances the bioavailability of active ingredients in products and provides controlled release of ingredients to skin cells. They help hydrate and soothe while giving a very rich feel to skin care products.

PINE BARK EXTRACT • Contains powerful antioxidants called oligomeric proanthocyanidins, or OPCs for short, effective at protecting skin down to its structural level. It helps strengthen and repair tissues made of collagen and increases the effectiveness of vitamin C. Studies show the OPCs in pine bark extract help reduce swelling and inflammation in the body.

PINE NEEDLE EXTRACT • Derived from the evergreen tree, this fragrant extract stimulates circulation. Antiseptic and drawing properties help prevent and treat infections in skin wounds.

POLYSORBATE 60 • An ingredient derived from sorbitol. Known for its “water loving” properties. Used as an emulsifier to keep lotions and creams stable.

PROPYLENE GLYCOL • A humectant said to be the most common moisture-carrying vehicle because of its water-binding properties. It penetrates well through the skin.

PROPYLPARABEN • A commonly used preservative derived from benzoic acid. Effective against a wide range of bacteria and fungi. Used together with methylparaben.

PYRUS MALUS EXTRACT • Extract from apples, this versatile ingredient works as an antioxidant, astringent, exfoliant, fragrance and emollient.

RETINYL PALMITATE, RETINOL-A • A form of vitamin A, essential to normal functioning of the skin. Studies show that retinol lotion transforms into Retin-A in the skin yielding significant difference in skin wrinkling. It also aids in keeping the skin soft and youthful.

ROSE OIL • Rose Oil is an essential oil extracted from the petals of various types of rose.

SAFFLOWER OIL • Extracted from the seed of an herb native to Asia. Resembles a thistle. Used to soften the skin.

SESAME OIL • A natural oil extracted from the seeds of a tropical Asian plant. Used as an emollient and moisturizer.

SODIUM BORATE • A naturally occurring mineral which can also be manufactured from the boric acid found in hot springs. Used as an antiseptic and astringent. Also a preservative.

SHEA BUTTER • Natural fat extracted from fruit of the shea tree. Shea butter is known especially for its cosmetic properties as a moisturizer, skin softener and emollient. It is also a known anti-inflammatory agent.

SODIUM HYALURONATE • Acts as a lubricant on the skin by restoring moisture. Its water-binding and water-attracting attributes transform the dermis layer of the skin into a super-sponge for your face, filling up the spaces between the connective fibers, collagen and elastin in the dermis. It not only hydrates the skin and increases its volume and density; but, by effect, temporarily stabilizes the inter-cellular skin matrix, the glue that holds your face together. While this is a temporary improvement of the skin which must be repeated daily, the intense moisturization gives the skin improved defenses against environmental assaults and other aging effects.

SODIUM LACTATE • A salt of lactic acid which is part of the skin's natural moisturizing system.

SODIUM PCA • A powerful humectant and component of the skin's natural moisturizing factor, which is responsible for the moisture-binding capacity of the skin. Also increases the softness of the skin.

SOLUBLE COLLAGEN • Whole collagen protein which is used as a surface moisturizer and to impart a smooth soft feel to the skin. Helps to attract water to the skin's surface.

SORBITOL • Soothing agent derived from various fruits, seaweed and algae. A humectant that leaves the skin with a velvety feeling.

SOYBEAN STEROLS • Derived from Soybean Extracts, these are effective skin conditioning emollients that moisturize, balance, increase elasticity, and firm the skin. These extracts are also instrumental in reducing inflammation.

STEARIC ACID • A naturally occurring fatty acid found in a variety of vegetable fats such as palm or coconut used as a thickener, moisturizer and emollient to give “pearly” quality to creams and lotions.

STEARYL ALCOHOL • A white, waxy solid, in flake form, it is used in ointments, creams, conditioners and lotions as a mild vegetable emulsifier, skin softener, conditioner and thickener. This is a fatty alcohol produced from saturated fats in nuts and plants.

TEA SALICYLATE • Occurs naturally in wintergreen leaves, sweet birch and other plants. One of the well-known non-PABA sunscreen ingredients. It is used mostly for its sun-damage protection ability.

TOCOPHEROL (VITAMIN E) • A mixture of Vitamin E and other plant derived antioxidants. Used to maintain freshness of creams and as a vitamin conditioner for the skin.

WITCH HAZEL EXTRACT • Natural plant product used for centuries for its astringency and anti-irritant properties. Comes from the leaves and/or twigs of the hamamelis plant.

WILD YAM EXTRACT • Also known as the villosa root, a rich source of compounds commonly known as phytoestrogens. Improves skin lipid content for skin firming and wrinkle smoothing, gives anti-inflammatory effects and has antioxidant properties. Rich in tannins, minerals and vitamins it is an excellent component of skin creams for mature or dry skin.

YEAST EXTRACT • Used in skin care products, for its revitalizing capacity. It strengthens the skin’s natural ability to protect itself against damaging environmental influences and to reactivate tissue renewal by stimulating the cellular respiration.