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The 5 Best Eye Creams (Oils, Serums & More)

The desert-island must-have skin care item of every makeup artist we've ever met, eye cream can make a huge difference in how you look, particularly if you pat it on in the mornings before makeup or SPF. And clean, nontoxic versions, free of texturizers and fillers, are often the most potent and effective.

The first place on your face to show age or a late night, the skin around your eyes is famously thin and devoid of smoothing, plumping oil glands. Eye creams—or gels, serums, or even oils—are a way to (temporarily) get the skin around your eyes back on par with the rest of your complexion, and for this, we love them. Eye cream won't permanently lift, brighten, de-puff, smooth, plump crepiness—no cream will, and even plastic surgeons and dermatologists have limited options around the eye, though well-done Botox, certain fillers, and surgical fat removal and lifts do have more noticeable and long-lasting results than topical treatments.

So whether clean/nontoxic or chemical/synthetic, eye cream is more about the moment than the long game (The chemical/synthetic versions, however, bring potential irritants, endocrine disruptors, and more right to one of the most vulnerable areas on the body, so their negative consequences are arguably more long-game in nature.)

Though it's wonderful use before bed, there are several reasons why eye cream does its very best work in the morning: Patting it lightly under and around your eyes feels soothing and helps de-puff, and the moisture sinks in to smooth skin. It makes a bare face look better, and it makes any makeup you use—especially foundation, BB cream, or concealer—look significantly more natural. Make sure to give it a few minutes to sink in before applying anything over it, and a few more before doing eye makeup, to minimize smudging. Here, our all-time five favorite formulas, by type:

Gel



Tammy Fender Awakening Eye Gel

goop, \$84

The eye area is always the first to give away a sleepless night or stressful day; this hydrating gel targets the delicate area with a combination of cooling elderflower and chamomile.