

THE CUT

22 Hand Creams You Probably Need Right Now

By Erica Smith and Jane Larkworthy | Photograph By Heather Hazzan



Photo: Heather Hazzan

It's not high on the list of concerns about coronavirus, but my hands are incredibly dry right now, and I bet yours are, too. The CDC recommends washing your hands frequently, “especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.” You should use soap and water, and you should take at least 20 seconds. All of this is a recipe for dry, cracked hands.

“Some people think they might be overdoing it with how often they’re washing their hands now, but that’s the amount of washing that you’re *supposed* to do,” says dermatologist Amy Wechsler, who washes hers (followed by a pump of Purell) between every patient. “I always apply moisturizer afterwards; it’s a simple dry-skin-care step. Washing your hands removes skin’s natural oils and breaks down its moisture barrier. If you give those oils right back in the form of a moisturizer, you can prevent the breakdown from happening.”

Wechsler recommends keeping a humidifier nearby, using a gentle hand soap (she prefers fragrance-free Seventh Generation), and not using occlusive formulas, like Aquaphor, when hands are super-dry. “Formulas like that stay on the surface,” she says. “You need something that penetrates.” Read on for 22 hand creams that will do the trick.

The Best Clean Hand Cream



Tammy Fender Neroli Hand Crème

Palm-Beach-based organic and natural facialist Tammy Fender created this cream from natural actives, like shea butter, sunflower oil, and a slew of flower extracts. The neroli fragrance is as soothing as Fender’s spa — which is saying a lot.

\$42 AT TAMMY FENDER