

## 9 Beauty Editors of Color Share Their Favorite Sunscreens for Dark Skin Tones

by MAYA ALLEN | UPDATED 04/20/19

**S**unscreen and brown skin: *Let's talk about it.* One of the biggest misconceptions in beauty is that if you have extra melanin in your skin, you don't need sunscreen. The melanin in our skin can do a lot of magical things, but protecting us from the sun is not one of them. For years and years, sunscreens were terribly formulated and would leave an ashy residue on dark skin tones. The selection of sunscreens in the market that are completely sheer on dark skin tones is extremely limited. To this day, it's still a challenge finding a variety of sunscreens that are brown skin-friendly.

According to the [American Academy of Dermatology](#), "People of color have a lower risk than whites of getting skin cancer. But they still have a risk. Monthly skin self-exams can help you find skin cancer early when a cure is likely." To reduce your risk of skin cancer, the organization highly suggests wearing sunscreen that has broad-spectrum protection, is SPF 30 or greater, and is water-resistant.

I reached out to the women in my circle, who happen to be beauty editors of color, to see which sunscreens they depend on for sheer, hydrating, and SPF protection. Ahead, you'll see an array of beautiful, dark skin tones and the sunscreens that were surely made with #BlackGirlMagic in mind.



Coola Sport Continuous Spray SPF 30 Tropical Coconut (\$36)

SHOP

"When it comes to sunscreen for the body, I've really been in love with Coola's offerings for the last few years. They have a Tropical Coconut SPF 30 spray that's so bomb! It's lightweight, settles into my brown skin clean, and smells delicious. It's a beach bag staple that many melanated queens would appreciate!"



Coola Classic Face Sport SPF 50 White Tea (\$32)

SHOP

"I have dark skin, so trying to find a sunscreen, to put it simply, has been a total bitch. I've walked around with my face looking like Ashy Larry—my mother, who made sure I was moisturized every single day, would be ashamed. I've used tinted sunscreens I *thought* were for melanated folks, but turned out just being slightly less ashy than the ones not made for dark skin. It's as if people don't realize that some folks are darker than beige. I started wearing SPF 30 every day at 25 years old, so it's definitely been a journey with tons of trial and error.

Kiehl's ultra facial moisturizer was my go-to in my younger days, but it can make you a little *too* dewy sometimes. Now, the Coola Sport White Tea SPF 50 sunscreen is a favorite of mine. It makes me glowy, and it leaves not even a little bit of a trace of residue. The glow is REAL. Like I put it on, and I don't even need a highlighter."