

Get the look

Sali Hughes on hand cream

Hand cream is the one beauty product I often neglect to use, even though I should. I have terrible-looking hands that are always improved with a good, moisturising hand lotion and yet, like so many people, I find the constant presence of moisturiser on my extremities a bit annoying. Hand cream gets in the way of daily chores and makes its presence known when my attention should be elsewhere. I don't want my stir-fry to taste of cocoa butter, or my laptop clogged, and I definitely don't want greasy fingerprints on my Mulberry satchel.

Yet I'd really like not to have prematurely aged, uncomfortable, red hands any more (left to their own devices, my hands feel like Artex - especially in winter). So I approached this column with strict criteria: does this cream a) make my hands look and feel better, and b) make me forget I'm wearing it? The six below answered yes to both questions and slotted seamlessly into my beauty routine without making a show of themselves. Slather any on after hand-washing, or whenever hands feel parched. Ramp things up once a week by first washing hands in a body scrub (I love Nuxe's Fondant scrub, £16, garden.co.uk) but ignore the packaging and use on dry, not wet, skin before rinsing off.



RUI FARRIA FOR THE GUARDIAN; REX

Laura Mercier Fresh Fig Hand Crème £13, houseoffraser.co.uk

Every time I put this on, someone asks me what perfume I'm wearing. A rich cream with a heavenly smell.

L'Occitane Shea Butter Hand Cream £7.50, uk.loccitane.com

A rich but non-greasy cream for very dry hands. I love the soft, baby-like smell.



OPI Avoplex Moisture Replenishing Lotion £6.10, lenawhite.co.uk

A great all-round lotion for all skin types. Sinks in fast; moisturises cuticles and hands effectively.

Chantecaille Retinol Hand Cream SPF15 with rose and vitamin C £60, spacenk.co.uk

I find that anti-ageing and sun protective creams leave a film. This bucks the trend. Bliss.

Johnson's 24hour Moisture Radiance Hand Cream £1.99, boots.com

You know how your hands can look ruddy and veiny when dry? This fixes it.

Cowshed Cow Pat Hand Cream with grapefruit and coriander £16, cowshed-online.com

Popular with kids, men and other hand cream haters. Light and fresh-smelling.

