

Amy's Picks **Skin focus:** oil-balancing, antiredness, hydration

Recovery Serum, ABBE Labs

Ordinarily, I don't gravitate toward aging recovery products, but this elegant serum caught my eye, and it proved to be a fabulous evening treat for my skin. The Veradex line is based on technology for better wound healing; a mixture of vitamin E and salicylic acid in a specific ratio helps increase cellular turnover. The serum glided effortlessly into my skin after cleansing, leaving it soft, smooth and soothed, and the fabulous fragrance was a nice bonus.



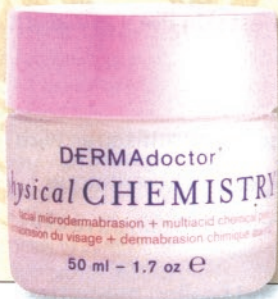
Foaming Cleanser, Aveda

Removing makeup is vital for a complexion like mine, and this foaming cleanser provided just the right balance of cleaning and soothing to make my skin happy. The foam washed away completely, leaving my skin smooth, but not tight thanks to tamanu oil, which provides antioxidant and anti-irritant benefits. I can feel even better about using this cleanser, as Aveda's partnership to source the tamanu oil from the Vanuatu islands in Southeast Asia directly benefits the islands' inhabitants.



Precleanse, Dermalogica

I love trying a wide variety of skincare products, but I had to wonder at cleansing my face *before* cleansing my face—with an oil, no less. Once I tried this first-step cleanser, though, I was hooked! The plant-based oil melts excess sebum, makeup, sunscreen and environmental pollutants and rinses them down the drain. Afterward, I *felt* the difference in my skincare routine—cleansers penetrated, masks tingled and moisturizers soothed even more. This is one oil I'll keep.



Physical Chemistry, DERMAdoctor

I love the feeling of exfoliated skin, but I risk overdoing it and aggravating the redness that's already there. This product kept me balanced with a combination of a 19.5% multiacid resurfacing complex and polymer beads, which swept away old skin cells. A combination of green tea, dimethicone and algae extract kept redness at bay. When the scrub rinsed away (cleanly, I might add), my pores appeared smaller and my glowing skin was ready to face the day.

Clear Complexion Drying Lotion, Repêchage

Occasional breakouts seem to be my lot—although I argue to everyone that this simply isn't fair, given my slide toward my 40th birthday. How to get rid of them quickly without irritating my skin? I decided to try this overnight product, and was surprised by its effectiveness. Sulfur helps break down blemishes while kojic acid reduces redness. In the morning, I found that my breakouts had diminished, and I could go to work with my best face forward.



Instinctual Moisturizing Lotion, SpaRitual

Ahhh ... ginger! I love it in Chinese food, and I adore it in this all-over body lotion. Part of the company's Chakra Care System, the vegan, wildcrafted lotion features Indonesian ginger; I found myself looking for excuses to wash my hands so I could apply more of it. Moisturizing ingredients, including sesame, soybean and olive oils, and vitamins A and E, left my skin feeling silky smooth. And the elegant package looked fabulous on my countertop.



Clear Complexion Seboregulator, Cellex-C

Battling shine is a regular feature of my afternoons, but the war was won with a little morning help from this sky-blue gel. My face kept a perfectly matte finish throughout the day, thanks to a trio of oil-controlling ingredients (iris extract, zinc and vitamin A). Hyaluronic acid drenched my skin with moisture, and a refreshing tingle and hint-of-mint scent from peppermint provided antiseptic benefits and a terrific start to my morning routine.