

A look at the most effective Anti-Aging products

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Our look at some of the best anti-aging skincare treatments.

With Winter storms battering and drying our skin, most of us are buying moisturizing and anti-aging products right now to help keep our skin from drying and flaking. But which products are effective and worth the money? It's easy to rack up an expensive bill on beauty creams and anti-aging products. To help us find out what works and what doesn't, we talked to **Board Certified New York City/NJ Dermatologist Dr. Rebecca Baxt**. According to **Dr. Rebecca Baxt**, "There are anti-aging products or ingredients that do perform significantly better than others and can make a profound difference in the skin's appearance while others are simply "false hope in a jar." Read on for tips from Dr. Baxt on what works and what doesn't before you shop for skincare/anti-aging products.



Why don't most products work the way they claim? Almost without exception, when you buy a product claiming to tighten skin, its effects, if any, are due to ingredients such as film-forming agents. Just like the name states, film-forming agents form a film on the skin, and that can make the skin "feel" tighter. The effect is temporary and you won't see noticeable lifting of sagging skin, but the sensation is often enough to convince women that the product is working. **Dr. Baxt** stresses that, "Skin "feeling" tighter is not the same as making a real change for the better in the tone or laxity of your skin. Using what really works will get you closer to the results you want."

Best Anti-Aging Skincare Buys

- **Sunscreen with SPF 30+** Dr. Baxt says, “Sunscreen SPF 30 or above is the best anti-aging cream you can use. It prevents skin cancer as well as UVA rays that cause loss of collagen and wrinkles in the skin. Reapply every 2 hours, use a powder sun block and carry in your pocketbook for quick and easy sunscreen touch-ups. My favorite powder sunblock is Colorescience, and my favorite base sunscreens have titanium or zinc oxide in them as active ingredients.”
- **“Retinoids** work great to reduce fine lines and wrinkles and help boost collagen production,” says Dr. Baxt. She adds, “Over the counter retinols are good, Neutrogena makes a good one, or prescriptions such as Retin- A.” I personally use the Skinceuticals Retinol cream and can vouch for it’s effectiveness. I’m also a fan of the L’Oreal Retinol creams, which are very affordable.
- **Glycolic acid** also reduces fine lines and wrinkles and helps fade pigmentary damage from the sun. “I often have patients alternate nights with retinoid and glycolic,” says Dr. Baxt.
- **Vitamin C** is a great antioxidant which reduces free radical damage and is great for anti-aging and helps brighten the skin. Dr. Baxt often recommends it in the morning, underneath sunblock, or at night if patients are too sensitive to tolerate retinoids and glycolic acid.
- **Ceramides** are a type of lipid found in the membrane of cells. Dr. Baxt states that, “They help hold skin cells together, forming a protective layer that plumps the skin and retains moisture. Ceramide levels decrease as we age which leads to loss of hydration, less skin turnover and dryer, more damaged skin. Replenishing the skin’s ceramide levels will help restore moisture and fortify the skin’s natural barrier, helping skin look and feel younger.” So use a ceramide containing moisturizer for your whole body daily.
- **Hydroquinone** works to even out sun spots, blotches, and mottled skin. A little hydroquinone goes a long way. “It’s the most effective ingredient for bleaching skin,” says Dr. Baxt. Hydroquinone fades hyperpigmentation by blocking the enzyme that triggers melanin production in the skin.
- **Green Tea Extract** is loaded with nutrients called polyphenols, which have been shown to fight free radicals. Studies have found that ingredients in green tea can reduce sun damage and may protect against skin cancer when applied topically. Dr. Baxt offers that, “Using green tea extract under sunscreen can provide an extra dose of protection. Polyphenols in creams and lotions may help slow signs of aging, reduce sagging skin and decrease wrinkles.”

Anti-Aging Products that are not as effective

The majority of anti aging creams are still based on moisturizers such as mineral oil. Wrinkles look worse when they are dry, so any kind of moisturizer helps, but its only temporary and doesn’t address the root cause of the wrinkles such as collagen loss, free radical damage, sun damage and environmental factors. Don’t be fooled by the anti-aging labels. Unless there is an actual “active ingredient” such as retinol, the benefit is just moisture but nothing else.

- **B Vitamins** Many forms of vitamin B (like B12) can only be absorbed in the small intestine, so no matter how much is loaded into your moisturizer or serum, it’s not going to make a difference. “Vitamins like niacin can have an effect on the skin’s texture and color, but your skin can’t absorb them,” Dr. Baxt explains. If you really want to tap into the power of vitamin B to improve your skin’s glow and appearance, stick to eating leafy greens like spinach, asparagus, beans, and peas.
- **Caffeine.** Much like a Starbucks Latte for your brain, caffeine in skin creams can give a boost to your skin, too. Until it wears off. “Caffeine can temporarily reduce puffiness, especially around your eyes,” explains Dr. Baxt. “But don’t expect permanent results.”

- **Botanical extracts** are ingredients extracted from plants (flowers, roots, stems, trees, etc.) for use in skin care for everything from healing blemishes to reducing fine wrinkles. They have been used for centuries and have anecdotal purposes in many cultures. The issue: Botanical extracts need to remain on your skin in order to work. **Dr. Baxt** explains that, “In cleansers, there is simply not enough contact time on your skin for any true anti-aging benefit to take place. Another issue is that most botanical extracts are water soluble, which means that the moment you wet your skin and begin to wash your face, they’re watered down and rendered useless.”
- **Collagen and elastin in anti-wrinkle products.** Collagen and elastin in skin-care products can serve as good water-binding agents, but they cannot fuse with your skin’s natural supply of these supportive elements. In most cases, the collagen molecule is too large to penetrate into the skin. But even when it is made small enough to be absorbed it cannot bind with the collagen existing in skin, and there isn’t any research indicating otherwise.

For more information on Dr. Baxt and her skincare tips and practice, visit the website [Cosmedical](#) or visit the [Baxt Cosmedical Facebook Fan Page](#)