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SKIN

12 Best Wrinkle Serums to Smooth Etches and Lines

Dermatologists and plastic surgeons told us their favorites.

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Wrinkles are a good thing—after all, they’re an indication that you’re still around. But if you don’t exactly love them, the best wrinkle serum can help make them a little less noticeable, if that’s your thing. For some context: Starting in our twenties, our skin’s production of **collagen** and elastin—the proteins responsible for resilience and bounce—starts to slow down.

Best Drugstore: CeraVe Skin Renewing Retinol Serum



Why it’s worth it: This efficacious pick from CeraVe is a great budget-friendly option for retinol beginners, even if they have sensitive skin, says **Paul Jarrod Frank, MD**, board-certified dermatologist in New York City. CeraVe Skin Renewing Retinol Serum uses encapsulated retinol, which slowly absorbs into the skin, reducing the drying and irritating effects commonly associated with the ingredient. “It also contains ceramides and niacinamide to hydrate and decrease inflammation,” **Dr. Frank** adds.

Best With Vitamin C: SkinCeuticals CE Ferulic



Why it's worth it: According to [Dr. Frank](#), this antioxidant blend has long been a gold standard in vitamin C serums. "It contains 15 percent ascorbic acid, which has been proven to help with environmental stress and pollution, and even increase the efficacy of sunscreen," he says. Because vitamin C also helps promote collagen production and combat discoloration, SkinCeuticals CE Ferulic will help improve overall skin texture and tone, wrinkles included.

Editor's tip: Vitamin C is known for its instability, which is why this serum is packaged in a dark glass bottle, but it can still easily break down once exposed to air, light, and fluctuations in temperature. Keep it in a cool, dark place for best results. You may also want to skip this product if you tend to break out: "The added vitamin E is not recommended for acne-prone skin," warns [Frank](#).

Best for Acne-Prone Skin: Paula's Choice Clinical PRO Retinaldehyde Dual-Retinoid Treatment



Why it's worth it: Remember, retinoids aren't just known for their ability to improve the appearance of wrinkles—they also help fight acne, and plenty of us regrettably face both concerns at the same time. Because retinal is one step stronger than traditional retinol, but a notch weaker than prescription-strength tretinoin, Paula's Choice Clinical PRO Retinaldehyde Dual-Retinoid Treatment is a great choice for someone who wants the benefits of an Rx despite being unable to tolerate its potency, says [Dr. Frank](#). "Its retinaldehyde is encapsulated with calcium, which minimizes irritation," he adds. For even further wrinkle-smoothing benefits, the serum also features the retinoid oleyl adapalenate, which is gentle on the skin and frequently used to treat clogged pores.

Best For Sensitive Skin: Biossance Squalane + 10% Lactic Acid Resurfacing Serum



Why it's worth it: Biossance's signature ingredient is squalane, a lipid that functions similarly to your own sebum to keep the skin barrier balanced without congesting pores. Biossance Squalane + 10% Lactic Acid Resurfacing Serum pairs it with exfoliating lactic acid to slough away the dry skin that exacerbates the appearance of wrinkles. Though the ingredient is included at a 10 percent concentration, it has a large molecule size, so it can't absorb skin too deeply—making it kind to an easily sensitized complexion. "This is a fantastic product for those looking for a gentle exfoliation that can improve texture, brighten dull complexion, and help with cell turnover," says [Dr. Frank](#).

Meet The Experts

- [Paul Jarrod Frank, MD](#), board-certified dermatologist and founder of [PFRANKMD](#) in New York City