

Get your game face ON

Whether you're looking for new formulas or expert application tips, we have everything you need to know for complexion perfection (and to disguise your lockdown low with a glow)



Staying at home is having an impact on us in more ways than one. Not only do we wake up not entirely sure what day it is, but we've also noticed a dull, lacklustre version of ourselves looking back from the mirror. According to skin expert and celebrity favourite Debbie Thomas, this is due to stress, a lack of vitamin D and a change in our diets, sleep patterns and general routines. Her top tip? An extra layer of hydration in the form of a thick layer of moisturiser or serum applied to damp skin. "Let it sit for a few minutes before blotting any excess off and applying your base," she says.

According to research by make-up giant Estée Lauder Companies, searches for "skincare" have peaked in the past few months, up by 115% on last year. Searches for terms such as "glow" have also increased by 31% across Bobbi Brown's retail channels. "Base is the most important part of your make-up; if your base looks good, everything looks good," says Amy Conway, Bobbi Brown global pro artist. "Foundation formulas are so advanced that we can get everything we want in one bottle."

We may have to wear face coverings, but what you have on underneath still counts. Read on to reap the radiance...



Do your prep

"It's all in the prep," says celebrity make-up artist Ciona Johnson-King, and that means exfoliating regularly to remove dead, dull skin cells. "Before you apply your base, really massage a hyaluronic acid serum or moisturiser into skin to get your circulation going and leave skin all plumped-up and smooth," she says. "This will also ensure your base will look even and flawless."

1. **Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Micro Capsule Skin Replenishing Essence**, £45. Visit elizabetharden.co.uk. Water-light with revitalising red algae.
2. **Trish McEvoy Beauty Booster Soothe and Illuminate Cream**, £68. From selfridges.com. A light-reflective cream with green tea to help reduce redness.
3. **La Roche-Posay Hyalu B5 Hyaluronic Acid Serum**, £38. From lookfantastic.com. Like a pint of water for thirsty skin.

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YOU WANT... A SECOND SKIN FINISH

If you like your skin to look super-natural and steer towards tinted moisturisers, BB creams and balm textures, Ciona advises using your fingers to really blend the product in for a seamless finish. If you have naturally oily or combination skin, don't write these textures off, says Amy: "Just opt for a mattifying primer underneath to control and absorb any excess oil."



- THREE OF THE BEST**
1. **Givenchy Teint Couture City Balm**, £43. From harrods.com. Enhances skin and protects from the elements.
 2. **Armani Neo Nude Glow Foundation**, £32. Visit armanibeauty.co.uk. Water content provides heaps of hydration.
 3. **Max Factor Miracle Second Skin**, £12.99. From boots.com. Coconut milk and aloe vera counter moisture loss.

YOU WANT... MEDIUM-FULL COVERAGE

The key to adding more coverage is several light coats instead of one thick one – it will be easier to apply and look more natural. "Begin with just a little product on your brush and build more coverage if you need it," says Ciona. "Start from the centre of the face, as that's the area that usually requires most attention, and blend outwards."



- THREE OF THE BEST**
1. **Suqqu Nude Wear Liquid EX**, £48. From selfridges.com. Builds skin sun-kissed and glowing.
 2. **Estée Lauder Futurist Hydra Rescue Moisturizing Makeup**, £36. Visit esteelauder.co.uk. Waterproof and perfect for summer.
 3. **Trinny London Just a Touch 2-in-1 Foundation and Concealer**, £28. Visit trinnylondon.com. Creamy consistency for flawless skin.

YOU WANT... GLOWING SKIN

Before applying your base, Amy suggests using skincare containing vitamin C. "It can improve signs of sun damage and scarring, brightens and creates a gorgeous, dewy glow." **Bobbi Brown Extra Illuminating Moisture Balm**, £45 (visit bobbibrown.co.uk), and **Nars Optimal Brightening Concentrate**, £54 (visit narscosmetics.co.uk), both layer beautifully under make-up.



- THREE OF THE BEST**
1. **Dior Forever Summer Skin Limited Edition**, £37. Visit dior.com. Leaves skin sun-kissed and glowing.
 2. **Guerlain L'Essentiel Natural Glow Foundation SPF20**, £44. Visit guerlain.com. For a luminous finish.
 3. **Nars Sheer Glow Foundation**, £33.50. From cultbeauty.co.uk. A sheer but buildable coverage with glowing results.

YOU WANT... A VELVETY-MATT FINISH

Matt formulas are brilliant for an airbrush finish, but not for dry skin types. "If you love the finish regardless, then apply a hydrating primer beforehand and opt for a fluid-to-powder formula to lock in moisture and leave skin velvety," Amy says. If you have mature skin, apply a really nourishing serum or moisturiser first to avoid your base sitting in fine lines and wrinkles.



- THREE OF THE BEST**
1. **Huda Beauty #FauxFilter Foundation**, £33. From feelunique.com. Full coverage without being thick.
 2. **Bobbi Brown Skin Long-Wear Fluid Powder Foundation**, £28. Visit bobbibrown.co.uk. Contains a skin-smoothing protein complex.
 3. **Milk Makeup Blur Liquid Matte Foundation**, £34. From cultbeauty.co.uk. Blurs and fills in imperfections and fine lines.

Touch up on the go

"Stick foundations, crayons and compacts are perfect when you're out and about. Make sure you wash your hands before application," says Ciona.



1. **Benefit Hello Happy Air Stick Foundation**, £28.50. Visit benefitcosmetics.com.
2. **Erborian BB Crayon**, £23. From spacenk.com.
3. **Diego Dalla Palma Cream Compact Foundation SPF30**, £28.50. From marksandspencer.com.



BRUSH STROKES We love the **Artis Elite Oval 7 Brush in Black**, approx £53 plus shipping; visit artisbrush.com. This make-up brush gives an even finish, plus easy, precise application, so you use less product

Perfect finish

For bronzed skin, sweep 1. **Charlotte Tilbury Airbrush Bronzer**, £39 (visit charlottetilbury.com), over all raised points. If you're all about the highlight, pat 2. **Kevyn Aucoin The Glass Glow Face and Body Illuminator in Crystal Clear**, £26 (from cultbeauty.co.uk), onto cheek and brow bones, or mix 3. **Chanel Le Blanc Rosy Light Drops**, £38 (visit chanel.com), into your base and look like you've just had a facial.



Protect with SPF's

Yes, we are inside more at the moment, but you still need to think about sun damage...

1. **Saltee Daily Protection Formula SPF50**, £29. Visit saltee.com. Gives a high protection.
2. **Estée Lauder Perfectionist Pro Multi-Defence Aqua UV Gel SPF50**, £36. Visit esteelauder.co.uk. Layers beautifully.
3. **Soleil Toujours Organic Sheer Sunscreen Mist SPF30**, £32. From spacenk.com. Fun to apply.