

hotbeauty

Chemical attraction

Many beauty products have hi-tech ingredients designed to make you look terrific. We reveal the formulations, and explain what they can do for you ...



Anti-oxidants

What are they? They're ingredients that fight against environmental damage to the skin, like sun, pollution and cigarette smoke.

Where are they found?

Skin-care, make-up and sun-protection products.

Benefits? Provide skin with vitamins A, C and E, believed to repair and protect.

Ceramides

What are they? Fatty substances made naturally in the body which help maintain skin cell functions.

Where are they found?

Skin-care products and shampoos.

Benefits? Synthetic ceramides are said to replace moisture loss.

Collagen and elastin

What are they? Substances that provide the skin with its natural elasticity.

Where are they found?

Skin-care products.

Benefits? Advocates of these say they help prevent loss of the skin's elasticity.

Retinol

What is it? A derivative of Vitamin A, retinol promotes cell renewal.

Where is it found?

Skin-care products and hand creams.

Benefits? Believed to help firmness and pigmentation.

AHAs

(alpha-hydroxy acids)

What are they? Substances

made up of natural fruit acids, from fruits such as grapes, apples and olives.

Where are they found?

Skin-care products.

Benefits? Tests suggest they encourage the skin to produce new cells, to gain a smoother complexion.

Keratin

What is it? A protein that makes up hair follicles.

Where is it found?

Hair conditioner.

Benefits? Believed to reflect light, giving hair a shiny and healthy look.

Enzymes

What are they? Natural ingredients in papaya and pineapples.

Where are they found?

Face scrubs and masks.

Benefits? Said to provide exfoliant properties which remove dead skin cells.

Humectants

What are they? They attract moisture from the air and deliver it to the surface of the skin.

Where are they found?

Moisturisers.

Benefits? It's claimed they're ideal to moisturise dry skin.

Silicones

What are they? Tiny glossy droplets which lock into your skin or hair.

Where are they found?

Hair and foundation products.

Benefits? Said to add silkiness and shine.

HI-TECH BUYS

Redken Inflate Volumizing Finishing Spray, \$18, to add shine to hair, with silicones.

Elizabeth Arden Millennium Energist Revitalising Emulsion, \$69, is to give assistance to lifeless and dull skin, with Vitamin A.

Christian Dior Model Lift and Firm Creme, \$82, contains elastin, said to lift and smooth fine lines.

Ella Baché Soin Bio-Réparateur, \$99, helps to improve elasticity for firmer skin, with collagen.

Mirenésse Vitamin Capsule Refillable Lipsticks, \$17.50 each. This lippy protects and soothes, with anti-oxidants.

hot spot

Highlight your eyes with L'Oréal's new Effervescence On-The-Loose Shimmering Eye Powder, \$13 each. Sweep powder along both lash lines for maximum impact. We love Orb, below left, and Night Fever, below right.



Stockists Christian Dior (02) 9695 4800 Elizabeth Arden Available from leading department stores Ella Baché (02) 9438 3911 L'Oréal 1300 659 259 Mirenésse 1800 666 880 Redken 1300 650 170