

Vocabulary #410 – Cosmetics, Cosmeceuticals, and Medicine -

Alcohol - Antiseptic and solvent used in perfumes, lotions and astringents. SD alcohol is a special denatured alcohol, also known as ethanol.
Algae - Derived from minerals and phytohormones. They revitalize the skin.
Allantoin - Used in cold cream, hand lotion, hair lotion, aftershave and other skin-soothing cosmetics because of its ability to help heal wounds and skin ulcers and to stimulate the growth of healthy tissues.
Aloe - The most popular botanical used in cosmetic formulations; emollient and film-forming gum resin with hydrating, softening, healing, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammatory properties.
Alum - Compound made of aluminum, potassium or ammonium sulfate with strong astringent action.
Ampoules - Small, sealed vials containing a single application of highly concentrated extracts in a water or oil base.
Antioxidants - Applied topically, antioxidants neutralize free radicals before they attach themselves to the cell membrane and destroy the cell. To prevent oxidation, they are also added to cosmetic formulations.
Astringent - Liquid that helps remove excess oil on the skin.
Azulene - Derived from the chamomile plant and characterized by its deep blue color; has anti-inflammatory and soothing properties.
Benzyl Peroxide - Drying ingredient with antibacterial properties commonly used for blemishes and acne.
Binders - Substances such as glycerin that bind, or hold, products together.
Botanicals – The use of plants in skincare products. Products are made from plants
Calendula - Anti-inflammatory plant extract.
Carrot - A light yellow essential oil. Rich in vitamin A, it is also used as coloring.
Ceramides - Lipid materials that are a natural part of the intercellular cement.
Chamomile - Plant extract with calming and soothing properties.

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Chemical Exfoliation - Chemical agent that dissolves dead skin cells.
Clay Masks - A mask which draws impurities to the surface of the skin as it dries and tightens.
Cleansers - Soaps and detergents that clean the skin. Alkaline and fatty acids of oils or soaps are combined to make soaps.
Cleansing Cream - Oil-based emulsion used to dissolve makeup and dirt.
Cleansing Lotion - Water-based emulsion for normal and combination skin.
Collagen - Large, long-chained molecular protein that lies on the top of the skin and binds water, also helping to prevent water loss. Fibrous substance derived from the placenta of cows or other sources.
Colorants - Substances such as vegetable, pigment, or mineral dyes that give products color.
Echinacea - Prevents infection and has healing properties. Used internally to support the immune system.
Emollients - These lie on the surface of the skin to prevent water loss; also fill in the lines of dry and dehydrated skin; soften and soothe the skin.
Emulsifiers –Used as stabilizers such as an ingredient that helps oil and water mix
Enzyme Peel - Cream or powder that produces a more even peeling of cell build up and helps to dilate follicle openings.
Essential Oils - Oils derived from herbs; have many different properties and effects on the skin and psyche.
Exfoliants - Usually come in the form of scrubs; water-based products containing a humectant mixed with some sort of abrasive agent such as almond meal, or polyethylene granules.
Exfoliation - The peeling or sloughing of the outer layer of skin.
Face wash - Detergent-type foaming cleanser with a neutral or slightly acidic ph.
Fragrances - These give products their scent.

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Fatty Acids –Lubricant ingredient derived from plant oils and animal fats
Fatty Alcohols – Fatty Acids that have been exposed to hydrogen
Fatty Esters – Emollients produced from fatty acids and alcohols
Fresheners - Skin freshening lotions. Antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and a stimulant. Helpful for couperose skin.
Glycerin - Formed by a decomposition of oils or fats; excellent skin softener and humectant; very strong water binder.
Gommage - Enzyme peel which is applied to the skin and dries in about seven minutes. It forms a hard crust and is then massaged off the skin.
Grapeseed - Powerful antioxidant with soothing properties.
Green Tea - Powerful antioxidant and soothing agent. Anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory, and a stimulant. Helpful for couperose skin.
Healing Agents - Substances such as chamomile or aloe that help to heal the skin.
Herbs - Along with plant extracts, contain phytohormones. Hundreds of different herbs are used in skin care products and cosmetics; they heal, stimulate, soothe, and moisturize.
Horse chestnut - Extract containing bioflavonoids; also known as vitamin P. Helps strengthen capillary walls; used for couperose areas or telangiectasia.
Humectants - Ingredients that attracts water. Humectants draw moisture to the skin and soften its surface, diminishing lines caused by dryness. Glycerin is a humectant used in creams and lotions.
Hyaluronic Acid - Hydrophilic agent with excellent water-binding properties.
Hydroxy Acids – Usually derived from food products, such as malic acid (apples), citric acid (citrus fruit) and sugar cane (glycolic acid)
Jojoba - Oil widely used in cosmetics; extracted from the bean-like seeds of the desert shrub. Used as a lubricant and non-comedogenic emollient and moisturizer.
Keratolytic Enzymes - Enzyme that helps speed up the breakdown of keratin.

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Kojic Acid - Skin-brightening agent.
Lanolin - Emollient with moisturizing properties and an emulsifier with high water absorption capabilities.
Lavender - All-purpose oil having many properties. Anti-allergenic, anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, antibacterial, balancing, energizing, soothing, healing and conversely, stimulating.
Licorice - Anti-irritant used for sensitive skin.
Lighteners – Pertaining to skin lightening with products either chemical or botanical
Lipids - Component of a serum that helps a serum penetrate deeply into the skin.
Liposomes - Lipids used for microencapsulation delivery systems; hollow spheres made of lipids that are used to transport other agents, such as antioxidants, into the skin.
Lubricants - Coat the skin and reduce friction. Mineral oil is a lubricant.
Mask - Ingredients such as herbs, vitamins, and oils combined with clay, seaweed, or hydrating bases that together tightens, tones, hydrates, and nourishes the skin.
Mechanical Exfoliation - Method of rubbing dead cells off of the skin.
Methyl Paraben - One of the most frequently used preservatives because of its very low sensitizing potential. Kills bacteria and molds. Non-comedogenic.
Micelles –Molecules such as when soap is added to water, and they become electrically charged
Mineral Oil - Emollient, cleanser, and demulsifier of dirt trapped in pores.
Modelage Mask - Thermal mask that produces gradually increasing temperatures.
Moisturizers - Products formulated to add moisture to the skin.
Mucopolysaccharides - Carbohydrate-lipid complexes that are also good water binders.
Packs - Cream masks or gel masks that nourish rather than deep-cleanse the skin.

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Papaya - Natural enzyme used in enzyme peels.
Parabens - One of the most commonly used groups of preservatives in the cosmetic, pharmaceutical and food industries; provide bacteriostatic and fungistatic activity against a diverse number of organisms and are considered safe for use in cosmetics.
Paraffin Wax Masks - Mask used to warm the skin and promote penetration of ingredients deeper into the skin through the heat trapped under the surface of the paraffin.
Petroleum Jelly - An occlusive agent that restores the barrier layer by holding in water. Used after laser surgery to protect the skin while healing.
pH Adjustors -
Potassium Hydroxide - A strong alkali used in soaps and creams.
Preservatives - Chemical agents that inhibit the growth of microorganisms in cosmetic formulations. These kill bacteria and prevent products from spoiling.
Propylene Glycol - A humectant often used in dry or sensitive skin moisturizers.
Quaternium 15 - An all-purpose preservative active against bacteria, mold and yeast. It is probably the greatest formaldehyde releaser among cosmetic preservatives, causing dermatitis and allergies.
Retinoic Acid - A vitamin A derivative. It has demonstrated an ability to alter collagen synthesis and is used to treat acne and visible signs of aging. Side effects are irritation, photosensitivity, skin dryness, redness and peeling.
Rose - Credited with moisturizing, astringent, tonic and deodorant properties; found in the forms of rose extracts, oil, or water.
Salicylic Acid - A betahydroxy acid with exfoliating and antiseptic properties; natural sources includes sweet birch, willow bark, and wintergreen.
Seaweed - Seaweed derivatives such as algae have many nourishing properties. Specifically, seaweed is known for its humectant and moisturizing properties, vitamin content, metabolism stimulation and detoxification and aiding skin firmness.
Serums - Concentrated liquid ingredients for the skin designed to penetrate and treat various skin conditions.
Silicone - An emollient that leaves a protective film on the surface of the skin.

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Sodium Bicarbonate - Baking soda; an inorganic salt used as a buffering agent and a pH adjuster. It is alkaline. Used in skin smoothing powders. It also serves as a neutralizer.
Solvents - Substances, such as water or alcohol, that dissolve other ingredients.
Sorbitol - Humectant that absorbs moisture from the air to prevent skin dryness.
Sphingolipids - Ceramides, or lipid material, that are a natural part of the intercellular cement. Glycosphingolipids and phospholipids are also natural lipids found in the barrier layer.
Squalane - Derived from olives; desensitizes and moisturizes; an emollient.
Squalene - Obtained from shark-liver oil; occurs in small amounts on olive oil, and rice bran oil; also found in human sebum. Insoluble in water. A lubricant and perfume fixative.
Sulfur - Reduces oil-gland activity and dissolves the skin's surface layer of dry, dead cells; commonly used in acne products.
Sunscreens – Products with ingredients that are used on bare skin to protect the skin from the sun's rays
Surfactants - Chemicals in cosmetic formulations that allow the cosmetic to be able to slip across or onto the skin.
Tea Tree - Soothing and antiseptic; antifungal properties. Used in many products.
Thickeners –Ingredients used in products to increase consistency and volume of the product
Titanium Dioxide - Nonchemical ingredient that blocks the skin.
Toners - Liquid that tones and tightens the skin.
Tonic Lotions - Liquid that is used after cleansing, just before moisturizing.
Urea - Properties include enhancing the penetration abilities of other substances. Anti-inflammatory, antiseptic and deodorizing action allow it to protect the skin's surface and help maintain healthy skin. Does not induce photoallergy, phototoxicity or sensitivity.
Vehicles - Spreading agents and other chemicals necessary to formulate a cosmetic.

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Vitamins – A compound having nutrients that are required in small amounts such as antioxidants

Water –This is a transparent colorless tasteless fluid needed by plants and animals to live and in almost all skincare products

Witch Hazel - Extracted from the bark of the hamamelis shrub; can be a soothing agent or, in higher concentrations, an astringent.

Zinc Oxide - Used to protect, soothe, and heal the skin. Provides an excellent barrier to the skin and other irritants. Is somewhat astringent, antiseptic and antibacterial.

