

Are you lost in the skin-care jungle somewhere between Dead Sea mud and French seaweed, or charcoal and papaya enzymes? We've sorted out the new masks to help you choose one that's right for you.

by Kate Staples

the wild new masks



face healers

Create your own stress-relieving treatment from any of the quick-fix masks shown here. Consult the chart on page 163 to pick the one that's best for you.

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS SIMPLY SMEARED MUD ALL over their faces—an effective beauty ritual, but what did they know about pollution and sun damage? These days, the ingredients in masks are created for specific skin types and a myriad of skin problems—clogged pores, dryness, wrinkles, dullness—that your regular cleanser and moisturizer may not fully address. It's not easy to decipher the labels of many masks today, but it's essential to know what you're putting on your face and why.

"Masks should be used as an auxiliary to your regular routine," says Marianne Huss, vice president of education at Clarins. "A mask is an intense treatment, delivering more than one can get out of a cleanser, toner or exfoliant." Call them little skin miracles: Masks do everything from diminishing the appearance of fine lines to clearing up acne to shedding the dull

getting masked

Try a couple of new masks to cleanse, rejuvenate and rehydrate your skin.

No artistic license necessary. Origins' Clear Improvement (black); H₂O Plus' Facial Mask (blue); Bath & Body Works' Honey & Oat Face Mask.

