



Editor's Picks: Men's skin care & shaving

Men's Grooming Essentials

Until recently skincare for guys has been an under-the-radar affair. And while no one expects you to preen like a peacock, some small additions to your routine will yield big benefits now and down the road. MSN Shopping's [Shannon McCarthy](#) recommends some spruce-up supplies.

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[Pre-Shave Oil,
Lavender for
Sensitive Skin, 2 fl oz](#)

At [Beauty.com](#)
\$22.00

Prep School

- **Problem:** Your daily shave feels more like a scrape, and the resulting razor burn, bumps and ingrown hairs leave you more gruesome than groomed.
- **Solution:** An extra step before shaving makes the whole deforestation process faster and smoother, and you'll also present a calmer front to the world. The right cleanser provides exfoliation to remove dead skin cells so your razor does a more efficient job, and pre-shave oils help soften tough beards and properly protect your skin.

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[Biotherm Homme](#)
At [Biotherm-USA.com](#)
\$14.50

Shaving Dream

- **Problem:** Sure, you care about your appearance, but you need to get out the door and on the road. Who wants to burn daylight going over missed patches and fussy follicles?
- **Solution:** The right shaving cream isn't just an indulgence when the wrong one will leave your stubble in a facial filibuster. The best are enriched with soothing botanicals (think eucalyptus, aloe vera and menthol), topical vitamins and powerhouse moisturizers. Just a thin layer of these will do the trick.

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[5-Piece Shave Set,
Nickel, 1 set](#)
At [drugstore.com](#)
\$69.99

Cutting Crew

- **Problem:** Shards of flint were fashioned into man's earliest razors, and they were both dangerously sharp and easily dulled. If this sounds like the kind of primeval implement you're still using, it's time to join the modern world.
- **Solution:** There are some great grooming tools to choose from. Electric shavers have the flashiest features--quick battery recharge, self-cleaning cycles and adjustable pivoting heads. For a more traditional shave, finely weighted and balanced razors echo those of the Victorian era but still take the most advanced replacement blades.

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After Thoughts

- **Problem:** Pulling a sharpened piece of metal across the thousands of hairs on your face (and,



[After-Shave Balm, 4 oz](#)
 At [Beauty.com](#)
[\\$14.00](#)

according to studies, taking off a goodly amount of skin at the same time) is going to leave you feeling considerably chafed.

- **Solution:** Balms full of lavender and tea tree oil, and gels infused with aloe, will soothe without stinging, reduce redness, ease tightness and counteract the overall damage done by your daily pruning. Big hint--go alcohol-free for the best, and most comfortable, results.

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[Bump Down, Razor Bump Relief, 3 fl oz](#)
 At [Beauty.com](#)
[\\$20.00](#)

Smooth Operators

- **Problem:** Shaving may well have a storied past stretching back millennia, but then again so does ingrown hair. End of history lesson.
- **Solution:** To right the annoying wrong that is the razor bump, first, exfoliate to remove dead skin cells, then let your shaving gel sit for a couple of minutes to soften your beard, use a sharp blade and rinse it often, and cut with the grain of your hair, not against it. If you're still sporting some angry, red bumps, use a targeted product to get at the root cause.

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[Cream Cleanser Salicylic Acid Acne Treatment, 6.7 fl oz](#)
 At [drugstore.com](#)
[\\$5.66](#)

Oil Refinery

- **Problem:** The domestic gasoline supply may not be as cheap or plentiful as you'd like, but ironically enough there's an overabundance of oil production right there on your face.
- **Solution:** Cut the crude and slay the slick (and all the blackheads and red spots that go with it) with cleansers rich in alpha hydroxy or salicylic acid, and make sure this becomes a part of your daily routine. Sensitive skin? Look for products in gel form with natural ingredients, such as soothing chamomile and wash before shaving, not after.

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[Age Fighter Face Moisturizer, 1.4 oz](#)
 At [drugstore.com](#)
[\\$15.00](#)

Drink Up

- **Problem:** So you've mastered the art of the shave, and capped your oil gushers, but now fine lines and dry patches are telling you the epidermis is getting thirsty.
- **Solution:** As we age, our skin needs help in the moisture department, and this is just as true for guys as it is for gals. What you don't want is anything really heavy or greasy. That's fine for motor oil and fried food, but not the face. Look for lightweight, oil-free lotions packed with vitamins for an extra punch.

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Hot Stuff

- **Problem:** That great big fireball in the sky feels good on the skin, and some exposure is fine, but too much and you're toast.



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**[AVON AVON SUN
 General Protection
 Sunscreen Lotion
 SPF 40](#)**

At [Avon](#)
[★★★★★ Reviews](#)
[\\$9.99](#)

- **Solution:** Don't sacrifice your clean-cut image to avoidable sun damage or premature ageing. Pick a sunscreen with a goodly SPF (Parsol 1789 is a nice add-in), apply liberally and repeat every couple of hours. Sunblocks go one better, with physical barriers such as zinc and titanium dioxide to banish the burn.

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**[Jason Aloe Vera 98%
 Moisturizing Gel. 4 oz](#)**

At [drugstore.com](#)
~~\$4.00~~ Sale [\\$3.00](#)

- **Problem:** OK, so you overdid it with the sun, surf, wind and weather. "Rugged" and "outdoorsy" are good, but if your skin is actually peeling, red or irritated, you'll want to regain your cool.
- **Solution:** Douse the fires with nature's finest extinguisher, aloe vera. You'll find this gel in scads of products, and the best will match it with other calming agents, such as allantoin, menthol, macadamia oil and oatmeal, to penetrate and help heal the epidermis.

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**[Lip Balm SPF 25,
 Intense Therapy. .25
 oz](#)**

At [Beauty.com](#)
[\\$6.50](#)

- **Problem:** Your lips have fewer than half the cellular layers of the rest of your face, and no sebaceous glands to provide protective body oils. "Cracking a grin" could very well take on literal meaning.
- **Solution:** A couple of swipes from a good lip balm will preserve that pucker. There are many gender-neutral versions out there, and some targeted for the guys. Good stuff like shea butter, vitamin A, jojoba and avocado oil, sans the color? That's something to smile about.

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