BEAUTY

The 10 Best Micellar Waters of 2024, Tested and Reviewed

Jasmin Wuchner Cleansing Water All in a collectively remove every trace of makeup and grime

By Amanda Kwiatkowski Updated on February 28, 2022 @ 05:00PM

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PHOTO: COURTESY TARGET

Originally a French skincare staple, micellar water is a multitasking, gentle cleanser that effortlessly removes dirt and makeup in one fast step. A great alternative to makeup wipes and face washes, the clean-feel formulas are gentle yet effective. The thing is, with micellar water's ever-growing fanbase, finding the right one for your skin concerns can feel like a daunting task.

To make your search easier, we identified 30 top-rated micellar waters that work across all skin types. Then we recruited a team of testers to analyze each formula and rate them based on their feel, absorption, effectiveness, and ease of rinsing. Our testers also considered how well each product lives up to claims about the original point of products in the 30 best micellar waters on the market. With five stars across the board, Garnier Micellar Water Water All in one delivers on its promise to remove every trace of makeup and grime and feel refreshed and gentle without stripping the skin of essential moisture.

Keep reading for our full list of the best micellar waters, according to our lab tests.

Our Top Picks

BEST OVERALL
Garnier Micellar Cleansing Water at Amazon ($8)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR SENSITIVE SKIN
Origins Skin Relief Micellar Cleanser at Amazon ($27)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST BUDGET
Simple Micellar Cleansing Water at Amazon ($8)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR DRY SKIN
Arena Eau Thermal Micellar Lotion at Avenueua.com ($8)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR SENSITIVE SKIN
Vichy Mineral Micellar Water at Amazon ($20)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR ACNE-PRONE SKIN
Kombu Skincare Matcha Micellar Water at Amazon ($15)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR DRY SKIN
Drunk Elephant Micellar Water at Amazon ($28)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR OILY SKIN
Hooper Calming Crustree Micellar Cleansing Oil at Hooperish.co ($20)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR MAKEUP REMOVING
Medik8 Eyes & Lips Micellar Cleanser at Medik8.com (See Price)
↓ Jump to Review

BEST FOR TRAVEL
Bioderma H2O Micellar Water at Amazon ($11)
↓ Jump to Review

Best Overall

Garnier Micellar Cleansing Water

PHOTO: TARGET

Price On Amazon | $8
Price On Target | $8
Price On Walgreens | $8

Our Ratings

Feel 5/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: This micellar water is formulated with high quality ingredients that effectively clean the skin without stripping it of its natural moisture.

What We Don't Love: It can be hard on removing waterproof mascara.

Created by makeup artists and makeup lovers, she's no surprise Garnier's original micellar cleansing water checked off all our boxes. Our testers found it easy to remove every trace of makeup, and the micellar mesh cleanses the skin without stripping it of its natural oils. Not to mention, this product is great for those with sensitive skin as it's non-irritating and free of harsh ingredients, including parabens, sulfates and silicones (it removes any makeup, dirt, and grime. With just one swipe, our tester's skin was left looking revitalized and cleaner than ever. "It feels like a fresh mouse, brightening my skin and bringing life back into my face," he said.

I've been using this micellar water for years, and it still amazes me how much grime it removes. I especially love how easy it is to use. The no-rinse formula makes it great for those who are always on the go or those who don't have time for a full skincare routine. Plus, it's great for those who are removing almost every trace of makeup, you might have to use a bit more—these gloves (or just a few extra cotton pads) to fully get waterproof mascara off.

Stars: 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Cost:** $8 | **Sensitive:** Yes

Garnier Micellar Cleansing Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Best Splurge

Origins Skin Relief Micellar Cleanser

Origins Mega-Mushroom Skin Relief Micellar Cleanser

PHOTO: ORIGINS

Price On Amazon | $27
Price On Sephora | $28
Price On Nordstrom | $28

Our Ratings

Feel 5/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 4.5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: Infused with a mushroom blend, this micellar water is formulated with gentle ingredients for sensitive skin.

What We Don't Love: This micellar water doesn't function as a makeup remover.

The sound of mushroom-infused skincare may sound off-putting, but the ingredients in this micellar water are actually quite pleasant. Infused with brighten skin—and it happens to be the star ingredient in this formula. Aptly named, this micellar water is packed with a unique blend of plants and mushrooms that work together to soothe, calm, and provide long-lasting hydration. Our tester raves about how revitalizing the products felt. "The consistency is extremely comfortable and lightweight, and I barely noticed that I put on anything at all," she says. "I love washing my face with fresh water, however, this micellar water makes me feel so much more refreshed and clean than I do after a regular cleanser." Although it doesn't remove makeup, it leaves skin feel so fresh and clean, it's no wonder it's a cult favorite. Plus, it's great for those who are removing almost every trace of makeup, you might have to use a bit more—these gloves (or just a few extra cotton pads) to fully get waterproof mascara off.

Stars: 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Cost:** $27 | **Sensitive:** Yes

Origins Mega-Mushroom Skin Relief Micellar Cleanser

PHOTO: AMAZON

Best Budget

Simple Micellar Cleansing Water

Simple Kind to Skin Micellar Cleansing Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Price On Amazon | $8
Price On Walmart | $8
Price On Walgreens | $8

Our Ratings

Feel 4/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: Like the name suggests, it's a no-frills yet effective cleanser.

What We Don't Love: Our tester mentions that it made her skin feel a bit tingly which may be off-putting for some.

Skincare should be simple and straightforward, and Simple Kind to Skin Cleansing Micellar Water is no easy as it gets. Formulated with vitamin B5, B3, and C, this water catches the skin with gentle ingredients while cleansing away all traces of makeup and dirt. If you're looking to incorporate micellar water into your routine, this budget-friendly product is a great place to start. Our tester was impressed with the product's great price point. But to mention, the product efficiently removes makeup, too, so you get a great two for one. The simple ingredients thoroughly cleanse the skin without stripping it of its natural oils. Our tester says the product works "to effectively remove all of my makeup to the point where using this one better than reaching for bars," our tester shares. She notes that it also made her face feel slightly tingly, but in a good, refreshed way.

Stars: 4/5 | **Feel:** 4/5 | **Cost:** $8 | **Sensitive:** No

Close-up of hands using Simple Micellar Cleansing Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Best Drugstore

Arena Eau Thermal Micellar Lotion

PHOTO: AMAZON

Price On Avenueua.com | $8
Price On Amazon
Price On Walgreens | $8

Our Ratings

Feel 5/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: Formulated with Avene thermal spring water, this micellar water soothes the skin while also preventing the loss of moisture of makeup.

What We Don't Love: It has a light fragrance that may irritate some people.

While there's no magical well water that will solve all our skin concerns, Avene thermal spring water is the next best thing. It contains beneficial minerals that soothe the skin, and this micellar water's formula includes shea butter and oil to skin conditions, like eczema and irritation from shaving — and it's also the key ingredient in this micellar water. Upon first impressions, our tester was pleasantly surprised by the lightweight and formula feels. "It absorbs extremely fast, leaving my skin refreshed and hydrated," she says.

Because this product is a cleansing lotion, it's no surprise it scrutinizes your skin better. But, it also gently removes pollutants, relieving skin of the discomfort of irritation and dryness. Our tester says, "I felt like my skin felt much, but not more oily or a mess, subtle, sublime. The scent is gentle and soothing — very pleasant and not too overpowering." All in all, you don't need to be perfect to reach the storied sharpening it into her routine. It's worth a few extra sips to be bound name in creating such high-quality products," she adds.

Stars: 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Cost:** $8 | **Sensitive:** Yes

Avenue Eau Thermale Avene Micellar Lotion Cleansing Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Best for Sensitive Skin

Vichy Mineral Micellar Water

Vichy Purediacious Thermale Mineral Micellar Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Price On Amazon | $20
Price On Ulta | $20
Price On Walgreens

Our Ratings

Feel 5/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: This micellar water contains 15 natural minerals that help cleanse and revitalize the skin.

What We Don't Love: Because the formula is extremely gentle, it may not remove all traces of your makeup.

Finding products that work with sensitive skin can be a struggle, but luckily this micellar water from Vichy was made specifically with sensitive skin in mind. Formulated with minerals and thermal spring water, this cleansing water features Vichy's mineral mesh which cleanses water — which is loaded with 15 minerals to be exact — and retardant technology that attracts and traps non-washed dirt. Plus, it also includes vitamin B5, ingredients which soothe the skin and enhance glow. Our tester loves the making it extremely comfortable and lightweight. She says, "I felt like my skin felt much, but not more oily or a mess, subtle, sublime. The scent is gentle and soothing — very pleasant and not too overpowering." All in all, you don't need to be perfect to reach the storied sharpening it into her routine. It's worth a few extra sips to be bound name in creating such high-quality products," she adds.

Stars: 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Cost:** $20 | **Sensitive:** Yes

Woman tests Vichy Purete Thermale Mineral Micellar Water

PHOTO: AMAZON

Best for Oily Skin

Kombu Skincare Matcha Micellar Water

Kombu Skincare Matcha Micellar Water

PHOTO: TWITTER.COM

Price On Amazon | $15
Price On Thoroughbeauty.com | $15
Price On Bookishbeauty.com

Our Ratings

Feel 5/5 · Cleansing Ability 5/5 · Hydration 5/5 · Appearance 5/5
Absorption 5/5

What We Love: This micellar water is formulated with matcha which leaves skin looking glow, not grimy.

What We Don't Love: It has a light cucumber scent that some may not like.

Connected with a blend of almond oil, organic matcha tea extract, and echinacea flower extract, this cleansing water hydrates skin, removes excess oil, and boosts collagen production. Our tester enjoyed how this product left her skin feeling fresh, "not stripped and tight as some other cleansing water formulas do." Beyond the feeling, she was also impressed to see her eye makeup melt away in just one simple swipe, with no lingering mascara left behind. Although it doesn't remove all traces of makeup, it does leave skin feel refreshed, with diamondy, sensitive, and non-irritated. Plus, it also contains chamomile, and aloe vera, giving the water a nice, spa-like scent that doesn't overshadow the mascara. Our tester highlighted that it felt like it left her skin feel refreshed, with diamondy, sensitive, and non-irritated.

Stars: 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Feel:** 5/5 | **Cost:** $15 | **Sensitive:** Yes

Kombu Skincare Matcha Micellar Water

product to overcome," she says. "It smoothes all skin types effectively. It's hydrating, soothing and leaves any residue on skin."

Hues: 4 p.m. / **Good for:** Oily and Normal skin types / **Scent:** Yes

Woman uses Kanebo Sensai Silky Moisturizer

PHOTO: SHIPMONK

RELATED: The 25 Best Face Washes for Oily Skin by Sun Lord, Glossy, Neil Sorana

Best for Dry Skin

Drunk Elephant Micellar Water

Drunk Elephant Hello E Rose Micellar Water.

PHOTO: SHIPMONK

Price On Request | $18

Where To Purchase | $18

Price On Request | $18

Our Ratings

Face $/$ | Cleansing Ability $/$ | Hydration $/$ | Appearance $/$ | Absorption $/$

What We Love: It contains a blend of three ceramides to calm and hydrate the skin.

What We Don't Love: Our review notes there was a slight scent added to the product.

This milky micellar water from Drunk Elephant contains a blue ceramide blend that by maintaining the moisture balance of your skin. Besides the hydrating benefits, ceramides also aid in strengthening skin's elasticity, so your complexion will appear more plump and revived after using this. For best results, Hello Rose is a nighttime-use moisturizer. "The blend of ceramides, cholesterol, and fatty acids in this product is very hydrated-you," she says. Beyond the way it makes skin feel, it also does an exemplary job of removing makeup, dirt and debris. « this is thanks to the product's micellar technology, which uses tiny molecules that attract the product works overtime to exfoliate skin. It also comes in a little bottle (made of recyclable packaging) that really dispenses the perfect amount of product onto a cotton pad—the cherry on top.

Although non-fragrant products are great for sensitive skin, our tester noticed a slight scent added to this product. Keep in mind that the product also plays on keeping this product because the lower it is much.

Hues: 8 p.m. and 5 p.m. / **Good for:** Dry and Normal skin types / **Scented:** No

Woman uses Drunk Elephant E Rose Milk Micellar Water

PHOTO: LAUREN JAGGER

Best Calming

Hengan Calming Creatives Micellar Cleansing Oil

Hengan Calming Creatives Micellar Cleansing Oil

PHOTO: SHIPMONK

Price On Request | $ Varies

What We Love: It nourishes dry, irritated, allergic-prone skin without or irritation.

What We Don't Love: Because it's a micellar oil, it has to be rinsed off.

Unlike other micellar cleansers on this list, this one requires a quick rinse because unlike most other a water, it's actually an oil. The consistency packs a gentle punch. Removing all impurities while also deeply nourishing your complexion, this micellar oil is a great option for those with dry skin. Its ultimate non-toxic, fluid-free formula leaves your skin feeling soft and supple, dry skin flare ups and percents better breakouts from popping up. "My skin is usually very reactive, but this oil cleanser leaves me glowing," our tester adds. The only fault we could find is that this oil requires a quick rinse, but it's doing a lot more you're thoroughly washing your face.

Hues: 12 Pm / **Good for:** All skin types / **Scented:** Yes

PHOTO: LAUREN JAGGER

Best for Makeup Removal

Pheddi Eyes & Lips Micellar Cleanser

Pheddi Eyes & Lips Micellar Cleanser

PHOTO: SHIPMONK

Price On Pheddi.com

Our Ratings

Face $/$ | Cleansing Ability $/$ | Hydration $/$ | Appearance $/$ | Absorption $/$

What We Love: It gently and thoroughly removes the most stubborn makeup.

What We Don't Love: While you can use this on your entire face, it is specifically targeted to remove stubborn eye and lip makeup.

Looking for a makeup remover that won't totally strip your skin? Pheddi Eyes and Lips Micellar Cleanser dissolves stubborn makeup (the kind that lasts and lasts and lasts) without leaving your skin feeling hydrated, and, this that, leaves the skin underneath blemish-free and lip-stress, eliminating the look of fine lines and completely evening out hyperpigmented patches or lipstick. "I was apprehensive it would leave a film on my skin, but it didn't," our tester says. Although it doesn't leave a film, it doesn't "dissolve our texture. While this product can be applied to the whole face, it is important to note that it's intended to be used on your eyes and lips.

Hues: 5 p.m. / **Good for:** All skin types / **Scented:** Yes

Close-up of woman using Medik8 Eyes & Lips Micellar Cleanser

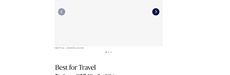

PHOTO: LAUREN JAGGER

Best for Travel

Bioderma H2O Micellar Water

Bioderma Sensibio H2O Micellar Water

PHOTO: SHIPMONK

Price On Amazon | $18

Where To Purchase | $18

Price On Target | $18

What We Love: This straightforward cleanser won't irritate your skin.

What We Don't Love: The bottle dispenses a lot of product at once.

Bioderma Sensibio Eau Micellaire Water is the ultimate travel companion. Coming in a TSA-friendly 3.3-ounce travel package, its non-irritating formula moisturizes and cleanses the skin wherever you are in the world. After a long flight, your skin may be sort of sorts filling out transcribers any customs forms and feeling dehydrated. This micellar water is the perfect solution to just a swipe. It also removes all traces of makeup, and with the inclusion of cucumber extract, soothes your skin. "Though the product was very hydrating, it didn't leave my skin feeling greasy," our tester says. Its instructions just be cautious when applying this to certain parts a lot of product comes out at once.

Hues: 10 a.m. & p.m. and 5 p.m. / **Good for:** Sensitive skin types / **Scented:** No

Close-up of person using Medik8 Eyes & Lips Micellar Cleanser

PHOTO: LAUREN JAGGER

Other Options You Might Like

Shiseido Refreshing Cleansing Water

Similar to the Hengan Calming Creatives Micellar Cleansing Oil, this pick is a great option for those with dry skin. Shiseido's cleansing water is made of a traditional micelle water. The lightweight formula, which includes glycerin and cell oil, gently removes makeup and any debris, improves dullness, and evens out skin tone. This is definitely a great option for those with dry skin types who need extra hydration, but our tester mentions that it was bit heavy for those with oily skin and the pump can be a bit slow.

Medik8 Baby Cleansing Water

Medik8 is also that for its baby-skin-skincare-making-this-cleanser-right-now-a-great pick for the whole family. Safe to use from birth on, this cleanser is formulated with gentle ingredients such as avocado and aloe vera to immensely hydrate without the risk of irritation. Despite the mellow formula, it still effectively removes all traces of makeup and impurities, leaving your putting-aside-focused-for-overall-cover. That aside, we still think it's a great option for those who need a gentle, affordable cleanser.

Our Testing Process

To begin, we removed from our top-rated micellar waters on the market. After conducting some online investigation, we were able to come up with a list of pick-and-decide cleansers to try on our tester. Using advanced Google-search-and-Reddit-thread-reading, we were able to find the best products for our testing, paying any significant changes. Then, the tester took product on each side of their face to rate the formula on a scale of 1-5 in five important categories: Feel, absorption, effectiveness, hydration, and overall appearance. Our tester also noted any scents added to the product, any other side-by-side-together-the-results and mention down the fact to the ocher micellar waters.

What to Keep in Mind

Ingredients

Finding the right ingredients for your needs is super important for maintaining your skin's moisture barrier and preventing any breakouts. According to Tania Sultan, M.D., board-certified dermatologist and founder of Dermatologist, microfine water with fragrances, mineral oils, or alcohol are the most common ingredients to avoid. "Fragrance is the ingredients you make the formula smelling, which irritates fragrance or a gentle cleanser," she says. "You can look for micellar waters that are fragrance-free, or look for those that are formulated with ingredients that are "PanRan and spring waters are ideals for minerals that are other good health. Think Vichy Purete Thermale Mineral Micellar Water and Eau Thermale Avene Micellar Lotion Cleanser Water toners unique mineral water.

Skin Type

When selecting a micellar water, it's important to cater to the needs of your skin type. Our tester any unexpected breakouts or to exaperate already dehydrated skin, after all. For instance, if you have sensitive skin choose a micellar water that's free of fragrance, alcohol, and irritants. Dr. Sultan Hanger or Pyunsel Calming Gentle Micellar Cleansing Oil, as they are both formulated for sensitive skin. If you have oily skin, you want a micellar water that will remove impurities and top no excess oil like the Kopiko Matcha Micellar Water, Perfecta Facial Cleanser and Makeup Remover, or Bioderma Sensibio H2O Micellar Water. Dry skin types need a super nourishing, anti-irritating, hydrating, like one by Grand Brilliant H. Rae MBL Micellar Water, which is rich in hydrating ingredients.

Your Questions, Answered

What is micellar water and how does it work?

"Micellar water cleanses the skin without using surfactants — instead, it uses micelles, which are essentially little fat bubbles," Dr. Tucker shares. "If you have a micellar water, the micelles are attracted to dirt, oil, and water and it only, but the oils will with one another. Micelles clean the skin using this concept. They grab onto the oil, dirt, and grime on the skin and whisk it away."

How do you use micellar water?

To use micellar water, simply apply a few drops of the solution onto a cotton pad and gently swipe it across your face. Micellar water is also intended to remove eye makeup or sunscreen, leftover with your preferred cleanser. Otherwise, no need to rinse. As Dr. Tucker says, micellar water fully cleanse your skin without making it feel squeaky clean or tight.

Is micellar good for your skin?

According to Dr. Tucker, micellar cleansing water is good for your skin. Micellar water is very gentle on the skin because it doesn't use surfactants to clean away traces of dead grime, and sunscreen, which can aggressively strip the skin of its natural oils and leave it dehydrated," she explains.

Is micellar water toner?

Although the two sound similar because (like the consistency and appearance of the toner), micellar water is different from toner. In essence, micellar water acts as a cleanser, whereas toner is an additional step used after cleansing.

Do I need to wash my face after using micellar water?

"A substantial rinsing micellar water is chosen to the morning. You'll have gotten in bed with those skin, and the only thing on your skin's surface is residue from our skincare products you might have worn overnight," Dr. Sultan shares. "To fully remove makeup or sunscreen, however, I'd suggest a rinse cleanser." This is where a cleansing balm would come in.

Why Shop With Us

Amanda Rosenfeld is e-commerce writer for InStyle. Amanda has extensive experience in the beauty industry, including a stint at Sephora and retail team of different micellar water. With additional knowledge from professional, board-certified dermatologist, Dr. Sonia Tucker, and first-hand experience trying out numerous cleansing waters, rounded up the top picks for this story.

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We test the best beauty, fashion, and lifestyle products through our InStyle Picks program to see their take across the country and with our network of experts and influencers. Our team of editors, stylists, and beauty pros, learn more about our workflow, tester, and team leads.

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