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OXYGEN TREATS

Although not as common as other types, oxygen masks seem like quite a promising fad. They deliver what's known as "wet oxygen" – which is oxygen that's infused in a solution or a mist – into skin. "The skin uses oxygen to kill bacteria, supply energy to cells, reduce swelling and inflammation, stimulate fibroblast production and to start new blood vessel production," says Dr Patrina Wong, medical director of Linc Aesthetic Clinic.

The oxygen is supposedly released when these gel or whipped cream textured masks are massaged into skin. It enters skin through the hair follicles and promises to leave skin calm, rejuvenated, cleansed and brighter. "They are best for sensitive, acne-prone or ageing skin," adds Dr Wong.



Beauty Talk OxyMask, \$98.80, from Sa Sa, has anti-acne witch hazel and peptides to firm skin.



Bliss Triple Oxygen Instant Energizing Mask, \$122, from Sephora, brightens skin with vitamin C.



Bulgari Masque Precieux, \$200, has a unique whipped cream texture.



5 SHEET UPGRADES

No longer made of cotton or tissue, sheet masks now come in new textures like cellulose, gel, stretchable cotton and even spun lace. These are used to better hold and deliver the particular ingredients to the skin and for easier application.

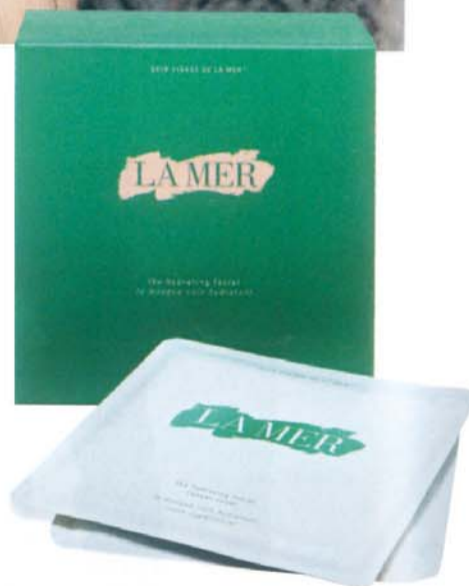


Easiest to use

Lancome Blanc Expert Ultimate Whitening Bio-Cellulose Mask, \$133 for a box of six, is a gel-like cellulose mask that won't drip and adheres comfortably like a second skin.



Skin Inc Collagen Black Mask, \$25 each, has a flimsy gel material made from a nourishing black mud. The mud supposedly sterilises and removes toxins from the skin, as well as moisturises.



La Mer the Hydrating Facial, \$480 for a box of four sets, is made from ultra-fine spun lace, which feels plush and slightly thicker than the usual cotton masks. It is better able to contain a host of anti-ageing, hydrating and energising ingredients, which include marine algae and minerals from tourmaline like magnesium and zinc. The mask's denser, heavier material also gives it better contact with skin, which enhances penetration of the solution into the skin.

