

GOLD STANDARD

With self-tan now firmly part of our beauty routine, we check out the latest innovative formulas (no streaks in sight!)

BY LAUREN NAYLOR

TANNING OILS

Faux-tanning oils are super-versatile as they can be layered on top of your usual SPF. Most are specially formulated for sensitive skin and enriched with natural ingredients and skin-hydrating actives. But best of all, these lightweight oils are so easy to use.

GOOD FOR... Applying in the morning - they keep skin looking moisturised and subtly develop throughout the day without transferring on to clothes.

THREE OF THE BEST

James Read Coconut Dry Tan Oil, £22.50, gives a healthy tan that lasts for days and smells divine. The formula is full of antioxidants to help against daily pollution and UV rays - but always remember to wear your daily SPF, too.

Tan-Luxe Wonder Oil, £45 (1), has organic tanning actives and a blend of six plant and omega oils, including raspberry seed and argan. But our fave part? The cooling roller-ball applicator that dispenses the oil steadily and stimulates circulation.

Vita Liberata Marula Dry Oil Self Tan SPF 50, £39 (2), is a 3-in-1 oil that protects skin with SPF, builds a gradual tan and gives an instant bronze hue on application - a serious contender in next-generation tanning products.



OH, BE-SHAVE!
De-fuzz 24 hours before tanning to avoid getting dots in your open pores. However, if you always get patchy pits, then it may be best to wait till afterwards. "Shave your armpits the day you shower your guide colour off, as it cleans pores and freshens the area," says celebrity tanner Eloise Maryam. Try **Gillette Venus Snap Women's Portable Razor (3), £4.98**. If you have sensitive skin, use **Wilkinson Sword Intuition Naturals Sensitive Care Razor, £6**.

MITT YOUR MATCH
"Your tan is only as good as the prep you put in, so blitz away dead skin with an exfoliator and leave skin to settle for at least a day so the tan has a smooth base to develop on," says Eloise. For hard-to-reach areas, we love **Bronzie Ultimate Back and Body Exfoliating Mitt, £19.95**. The charcoal draws out impurities and closes pores.

SOFTLY DOES IT
Moisturiser can stop your tan fully progressing, so limit yourself to a non-perfumed product the day before and apply to elbows, knees, feet and dry areas.

POST-TAN PAY-OFF
When you've reached peak glow, moisturisers are handy for prolonging colour. Try **Vichy Ideal Body Balm, £18 (4)**. With plumping hyaluronic acid, it keeps skin hydrated for over 48 hours.

