

Crowd Pleasers

What would you do if you bought a sunscreen and didn't like the way it smelled, felt, or looked on your skin? More than a third of consumers in our new national survey of 1,000 sunscreen users would give away a sunscreen they did not like—and 20 percent would toss it. Fortunately, the insights from our sensory test panel can help you find a sunscreen that you'll actually use. Here are our highest-rated picks that solve your biggest sunscreen complaints.



49% want an unscented sunscreen

- 1 | Pure Sun Defense SPF 50 lotion and
- 2 | La Roche-Posay Anthelios 60 Melt-In Sunscreen Milk lotion have just a hint of the plastic scent you sometimes get in unscented products.

43% dislike a sunscreen that leaves a white film

The good news: None of our recommended sunscreens will make you look like a ghost.

31% look for a tropical, coconut scent

- 3 | Banana Boat SunComfort Continuous Spray SPF 50+ has a slight pina colada scent.

51% don't want one that leaves an oily sheen on their skin

- 2 | La Roche-Posay Anthelios 60 Melt-In Sunscreen Milk lotion, our top-rated sunscreen, was very lightweight, but it's pricey—\$36 for a 5-ounce bottle, or \$7.20 per ounce.

- 4 | Aveeno Protect + Hydrate SPF 30 really is sheer, and at \$10 for 8 ounces, or \$3.33 per ounce, is about half the cost.

42% don't want a sunscreen to feel greasy

- 6 | Equate Sport Continuous Spray SPF 50 from Walmart doesn't leave a film or sheen on your skin.

A SUNSCREEN THAT DOES IT ALL

- 5 | No-Ad Sport SPF 50 lotion is super-protective and ticks off all of the top wishes—nongreasy, fragrance-free, and no white streaks. Bonus: It's priced at just \$10 for a 16-ounce bottle, or 63 cents per ounce.

PROP STYLING: MEGUMI EMOTO

RATINGS: Sunscreen Lotions, Sprays, and Sticks

Scores in context: All products claimed water resistance for either 40 or 80 minutes. Recommended products met their SPF claim, scored 80 or higher overall, and provided Excellent or Very Good UVA and UVB protection. UVB score is based on the results of our tests after water immersion.

CR Best Buy Recommended

● Excellent ● Very Good ○ Good ● Fair ●

Rec. Rank	BRAND & PRODUCT	COST PER OZ. (\$)	CONTENTS (OZ.)	PRICE PER PACKAGE (\$)	CLAIMED SPF	TESTED SPF	UVA	UVB (SPF)	SCORE
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A. LOTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	La Roche-Posay Anthelios 60 Melt-In Sunscreen Milk	\$7.20	5	\$36	60	Meets Claim	●	●	100
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	Pure Sun Defense SPF 50 Disney Frozen ⁽¹⁾	\$0.79	8	\$6.30	50	Meets Claim	●	●	98
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3	Coppertone Water Babies SPF 50	\$1.31	8	\$10.50	50	Meets Claim	●	●	98
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	Equate Ultra Protection SPF 50 (Walmart)	\$0.49	16	\$7.85	50	Meets Claim	●	●	94
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5	No-Ad Sport SPF 50 ⁽²⁾	\$0.63	16	\$10	50	Meets Claim	●	●	88
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	Ocean Potion Protect & Nourish SPF 30	\$1	8	\$8	30	Meets Claim	●	●	87
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7	Aveeno Protect + Hydrate SPF 30	\$3.33	3	\$10	30	Meets Claim	●	●	84
	8	BullFrog Land Sport Quick Gel SPF 50	\$2.20	5	\$11	50	40	●	●	80
	9	Neutrogena CoolDry Sport with Micromesh SPF 30	\$1.90	5	\$9.50	30	Meets Claim	●	○	78
	10	Coppertone Clearly Sheer SPF 50	\$2	5	\$10	50	35	●	●	76
	11	Neutrogena Ultra Sheer Dry-Touch SPF 45	\$3.17	3	\$9.50	45	31	●	●	75
	12	Ocean Potion Protect & Renew Body SPF 45	\$1.25	6	\$7.50	45	32	●	●	73
	13	Banana Boat Protect & Hydrate 2 in 1 SPF 30	\$1.67	6	\$10	30	Meets Claim	●	○	72
	14	Hawaiian Tropic Sheer Touch Ultra Radiance SPF 50	\$1.31	8	\$10.50	50	28	●	○	70
	15	Coppertone UltraGuard SPF 70+ ⁽²⁾	\$1.38	8	\$11	70+	59	●	●	68
	16	Palmer's Eventone Cocoa Butter Moisturizing SPF 30	\$1.18	8.50	\$10	30	Meets Claim	●	●	67
	17	Alba Botanica Very Emollient Sport SPF 45 ⁽³⁾	\$2.88	4	\$11.50	45	Meets Claim	○	●	67
	18	Banana Boat SunComfort SPF 30	\$1.75	6	\$10.50	30	22	●	○	54
	19	Hawaiian Tropic Sheer Touch Ultra Radiance SPF 30	\$1.31	8	\$10.50	30	21	●	○	52
	20	Kiehl's Activated Sun Protector SPF 30	\$5.80	5	\$29	30	21	●	○	51
	21	Cotz Plus SPF 58 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	\$8	2.50	\$20	58	38	●	●	49
	22	CVS Sheer Sun Lotion SPF 30	\$1.13	8	\$9	30	19	●	●	47
	23	California Baby Super Sensitive SPF 30+ ⁽³⁾	\$6.90	2.90	\$20	30+	Meets Claim	○	○	44
	24	Babyganics Mineral-Based SPF 50+	\$2.17	6	\$13	50+	25	○	○	44
	25	Blue Lizard Regular SPF 30+	\$3.60	5	\$18	30+	Meets Claim	○	○	42
	26	Vanicream SPF 50+ ⁽³⁾	\$4.50	4	\$18	50+	17	●	●	41
	27	Shiseido WetForce Ultimate Sun Protection Lotion for Face and Body SPF 50+	\$12.12	3.30	\$40	50+	Meets Claim	●	●	40
	28	California Kids #supersensitive SPF 30+	\$6.90	2.90	\$20	30+	Meets Claim	●	●	40
	29	Bare Republic Natural Mineral Sport SPF 50 ⁽³⁾	\$4.41	3.40	\$15	50	18	●	●	38
	30	Kiss My Face Baby's First Kiss SPF 50 ⁽³⁾	\$4	4	\$16	50	22	○	○	38
	31	Solar Sense Clear Zinc High Performance Sport SPF 50+ ⁽²⁾	\$2.12	5	\$10.60	50+	27	○	○	36
	32	Yes to Cucumbers Natural SPF 30 ⁽³⁾	\$4	3	\$12	30	14	●	●	35
	33	Aloe Gator SPF 40+ Gel	\$3.25	4	\$13	40+	Meets Claim	●	●	21
	34	Banana Boat Kids Tear-Free, Sting-Free Lotion SPF 50	\$1.25	8	\$10	50	8	●	●	21
	35	CVS Kids Sun Lotion SPF 50	\$1.13	8	\$9	50	8	●	●	19

How we test sunscreens. To check for UVB protection, a standard amount of each sunscreen is applied to small areas of our panelists' backs. Then they soak in a tub of water. Afterward, each of those areas is exposed to six intensities of UVB light from a sun simulator for a set time. About a day later, the spots are examined for redness. The resulting UVB ratings reflect each product's actual effectiveness after water immersion. (The tested sunscreens carry a claim of water resistance for 40 or 80 minutes.) **Tested SPF** is based on the average results for each sunscreen, not how close a sunscreen comes to meeting its SPF claim, and is used to calculate our UVB scores. To test for UVA, we smear sunscreen on plastic plates and pass UV light through and measure amount of UVA and UVB rays that are absorbed. That information is then used to calculate our **UVA score**.



Scan any page in this section using the Blippar app to watch videos and shop for products (see page 7 for details).

Rec. Rank	BRAND & PRODUCT	COST PER OZ. (\$)	CONTENTS (OZ.)	PRICE PER PACKAGE (\$)	CLAIMED SPF	TESTED SPF	UVA	UVB (SPF)	SCORE
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B. SPRAYS

✓ 1	Trader Joe's Spray SPF 50+	\$1	6	\$6	50+	Meets Claim	●	●	100
✓ 2	Banana Boat SunComfort Continuous Spray SPF 50+	\$1.67	6	\$10	50+	Meets Claim	●	●	97
✓ 3	Neutrogena Beach Defense Water + Sun Protection SPF 70	\$1.62	6.50	\$10.50	70	Meets Claim	●	●	88
✓ 4	Caribbean Breeze Continuous Tropical Mist SPF 70	\$2.77	6	\$16.60	70	Meets Claim	●	●	84
✓ 5	Equate Sport Continuous Spray SPF 30 (Walmart) ^②	\$0.83	6	\$4.98	30	Meets Claim	●	●	84
✓ 6	DG Body Sport SPF 30 (Dollar General) ^②	\$0.88	6	\$5.25	30	Meets Claim	●	●	82
7	Rite Aid Renewal Sport SPF 30 ^②	\$1.33	6	\$8	30	Meets Claim	●	○	79
8	CVS Sport Clear Spray SPF 30 ^②	\$1.42	6	\$8.50	30	Meets Claim	●	○	79
9	Banana Boat Sport Performance with Power Stay Technology SPF 100	\$1.67	6	\$10	100	36	●	●	77
10	No-Ad Sport Spray SPF 30	\$1	10	\$10	30	Meets Claim	●	○	76
11	Up & Up Sport SPF 30 (Target) ^②	\$0.83	6	\$5	30	Meets Claim	●	○	75
12	Hawaiian Tropic Island Sport Ultra Light SPF 30	\$1.75	6	\$10.50	30	Meets Claim	●	○	74
13	Australian Gold Continuous Clear 30	\$1.75	6	\$10.50	30	Meets Claim	●	○	69
14	Neutrogena Wet Skin SPF 30 ^②	\$1.90	5	\$9.50	30	Meets Claim	●	○	68
15	Banana Boat Sport Performance CoolZone SPF 30	\$1.50	6	\$9	30	Meets Claim	●	○	67
16	Banana Boat Sport Performance Clear UltraMist with Powerstay Technology SPF 50+	\$1.50	6	\$9	50+	24	●	○	59
17	Goddess Garden Organics Everyday Natural 30 ^③	\$3.67	6	\$22	30	Meets Claim	●	○	40
18	EltaMD UV Aero SPF 45 ^③	\$4.67	6	\$28	45	22	●	○	26

C. STICK SUNSCREENS

✓ 1	Coppertone Kids Stick SPF 55 ^②	\$9.17	0.60	\$5.50	55	Meets Claim	●	●	87
✓ 2	Up & Up Kids Stick SPF 55 (Target) ^②	\$5.83	0.60	\$7	55	Meets Claim	●	●	84
3	Neutrogena Beach Defense Water + Sun Protection Stick SPF 50+	\$7	1.50	\$10.50	50+	42	●	●	74
4	Banana Boat Ultra Defense Stick SPF 50 ^②	\$10	0.55	\$5.50	50	35	●	●	58

D. FACIAL SUNSCREENS

✓ 1	Avon Sun+ Sunscreen Face Lotion SPF 40	\$3	3	\$9	40	Meets Claim	●	●	85
✓ 2	Up & Up Ultra Sheer SPF 30 (Target)	\$1.73	3	\$5.20	30	Meets Claim	●	●	83
3	Neutrogena Clear Face SPF 55	\$4	3	\$12	55	37	●	●	78
4	Rite Aid Renewal Oil Free Faces SPF 30	\$2.43	3	\$7.30	30	Meets Claim	●	○	70
5	Neutrogena Clear Face SPF 30	\$3.83	3	\$11.50	30	20	●	●	48
6	CVS Breakout Free Face SPF 30	\$3.50	3	\$10.50	30	16	●	●	39
7	SkinCeuticals Physical Fusion UV Defense SPF 50 ^③	\$20	1.70	\$34	50	Meets Claim	●	●	37
8	CeraVe Face Lotion SPF 30 ^② ^③	\$5.60	2.50	\$14	30	15	●	●	32

^① Pure Sun Defense SPF 50 Disney Frozen is one model of this product. Other models include Avengers, Despicable Me, Spiderman, and other cartoon characters, which should have similar performance. ^② Contains retinol or retinyl palmitate, which pregnant women may want to avoid. ^③ Contains only the mineral active ingredients titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, or both.

The ABCs of SPF. The sun protection factor (SPF) is a relative measure of how long a product will protect you from UVB rays, the chief cause of sunburn. Assuming you use it correctly, if you'd burn after 20 minutes in the sun, an SPF 30 protects for about 10 hours. But intensity and wavelength distribution of UVB rays vary throughout the day and by location. And that calculation does not apply to UVA rays, which contribute to wrinkles and skin cancer. That's why you need a broad-spectrum sunscreen that provides protection against both types. However, no sunscreen blocks 100 percent of UVA or UVB rays.