

BEST *on* TEST

As the temperature drops for the onset of the winter season, skin needs a little extra TLC. This month, we've turned to natural face masks for a nourishing addition to our green beauty routine...

ORGANIC SHOP SEA DEPTH MUD MASK, £10.39, ORGANICSHOPUK.CO.UK

SOPHIE: This thick mud mask doesn't harden while drying, but left my skin tingly clean and helped to minimise my nose pores. With a recommended leaving time of only 10 minutes, I applied it just before making breakfast and washed it off in the shower. Talk about morning multitasking!

LAUREN: It's so lovely to read an ingredient list with names you actually recognise; organic algae, sea mud and sea minerals made this one feel deeply nourishing. My skin felt much firmer the morning after.

AKAMUTI CHOCOLATE MARSHMALLOW FACE MASK, £7.95, AKAMUTI.CO.UK

SOPHIE: As a chocoholic, I know the antioxidant powers of cacao, but hadn't thought of it as beneficial for my skin. The fairtrade, organic cacao in this mask, combined with crushed rose petals, pink clay and marshmallow, proved to be a secret beauty skin tonic. Whipping up your own helps to reinforce the magical power of the plant world for our body, inside and out.

LAUREN: I resisted the urge to taste this once I'd blended it with water! I loved the smell and, though I had never used a powdered mask before, enjoyed the hands-on feeling of making your own. It dried without feeling uncomfortable, and washed off easily with a warm flannel.

NATURICA SIBERIA ENERGIZING FACIAL MASK, £4.70, NATURASIBERICA.CO.UK

SOPHIE: This has a creamy blend that sits on the skin like a cleanser. The wild harvested ingredients really pack a punch so although it's gentle, it's powerful in awakening dull skin. I went make-up free for days after using it.

LAUREN: This felt really calming for the few pesky spots I had developed after a stressful week in work. The fragrant herb scent was very relaxing and didn't cause any distress to my sensitive skin.

GERLINDE NATURALS FRENCH PINK CLAY MASK, £33, GERLINDENATURALS.COM

SOPHIE: Pink clay seems to be the beauty bloggers hero ingredient in 2017; as one of the oldest forms of skin care, clay offers a deep pore cleanse, but is gentle enough for sensitive skin. This one has converted me to using brushes to apply face masks; no wasted product and less cross contamination from dirt on my fingers.

LAUREN: I loved the little extras this mask came with; I tested it with my friends and we agreed it felt like a spa treatment! The orange blossom smelt so good and once I'd rinsed the mask off, my skin looked noticeably brighter and less oily, especially throughout my T-zone, where I often have hormonal acne.

THE PANEL

Unsure which ethical beauty brands to go for? Each month we ask one reader to test and compare natural brands against our resident green beauty queen.



SOPHIE, DEPUTY EDITOR

I adore face masks, often applying a mixture 2-3 times a week. While they work their magic, it gives me a chance to relax, breathe and pamper my skin.



LAUREN EVANS, FROM AYLESBURY

I apply a face mask every week, as a chance to reset my skin for the week ahead. I've never tried natural products before, so I was really excited to see the change in ingredients and how they benefit my skin.

Next month, we'll be testing nail polish. If you'd like to be our tester, we want to hear from you!

Contact sophie.rae@aceville.co.uk