## Determine your skin type

Here's how to determine your own skin type: Look at it; study it; feel it. The oily areas will shine, and if you touch them, will leave a greasy film on your fingers. Dry skin will show signs of scaliness and flaking. Don't be misled into thinking your skin is dry just because it feels taut after washing.

2. Before cleaning your face in the morning, try the brown paper bag test: Take a piece of paper from a brown grocery bag and rub it gently on various parts of your face. If the skin is normal, the paper will darken slightly; if it is oily, the paper will become translucent; dry skin won't discolor the paper at all.

Get your skin analyzed by a professional. Most cosmeticians will test your skin free of charge, with no obligation to purchase any products. If you have problems with your skin, such as severe scaliness or acne, consult a dermatologist.

EAT WELL AND EXERCISE REGULARLY: The best nourishment for your skin is a balanced diet;

the best stimulation, exercise. "You are what you eat" is an expression that certainly holds true here. Foods rich in vitamins and minerals nourish the blood, which in turn nourishes the skin

Substituting a handful of vitamins for a well-balanced diet won't work, says Dr. Raymond Rupert, a Toronto consultant in fitness and nutrition. The average person will get all the vitamins she needs with a well-rounded diet. A self-prescribed regimen that includes a large vitamin intake can lead to serious skin problems. For instance too much vitamin A can result in coarse, dry skin and brittle fingernails; an excess of vitamin D can leave small yellow deposits under the skin.

This is not to say that the kind of foods we eat have a direct effect on the skin. Eating French fires, for instance, won't make your skin oily; that's determined by heredity and environment. However, the quality of sebaceous secretions is affected by the foods we cat.

Fatty foods are necessary to maintain a desirable level of sebaceous oils, but there are "good" fats and "bad" fats. The good ones, says Dr. Rupert, are the polyunsaturates such as saflower and corn oil. The bad ones are the saturated fats such as butter, fatty meats and palm and coconut oil.

The proteins necessary for healthy bodies are also necessary for heralthy skin. Sources include lean meats, fish, poultry, milk, cheese and whole-grain cereals.

Complex carbohydrates, those found in whole-grain cereals, fruits and vegetables provide energy and essential fibre. A word of advice: many of the vitamins in vegetables

are lost through overcooking instead of boiling them, so try steaming or sauteeing quickly in a wok.

Dr. Rupert believes that being physically fit has as much of a beneficial effect on the skin as does proper

"I can tell immediately if someone has been working out regularly", he says, "because it's reflected in her skin. Her face is relaxed, and she has a special glow."

In his experience, physical fitness is the only anti-aging treatment that works. Elderly people who keep fit don't exhibit the facial tensions that can lead to wrinkling. Besides, he adds, it's easier to smile when you feel fit and that makes anybody look good.

WORD OF CAUTION Again, a word of caution: after exercising it's important to replace moisture lost through perspiration so as to avoid dehydration of the skin. Dr. Rupert suggests having a glass of mineral water.

KEEP THE ROUTINE SIMPLE Whatever type your skin is, it will need cleansing, toning and moisturizing on a regular basis. The products and the procedure will vary according to skin type, of course, but the following routines suggested by Dr. Krafchik have one thing in common: they're all easy to follow and take a minimum of time.

Oily skin. It's important to realize that oiliness cannot simply be washed away. Oily skin is often prone to blackheads, whiteheads and pimples. None of these blemishes is caused by dirt, as is commonly supposed, but by a combination of factors that result in the pores getting clogged with oily deposits. Keep ofliness in check by cleansing the skin three times daily with a detergent-type

Use an astringent after cleansing and for refreshing touch-ups throughout the day. Oily skins seldom need a moisturizer - they provide their own natural lubricant. However, your skin may secrete less oil in certain curcumstances in harsh winter weather or as you grow older and you may want to consider a moisturizer then.

LACKS MOISTURE 2. Dry skin differs from aging skin in that the former simply lacks moisture; the latter results from a breakdown in collagen. You can't do much about aging skin, although the best preventative is to stay out of the sun. But dry skin

can be helped by a routine that includes regular moisturizing. To cleanse, use soap and water that's right, just make Combination or normal skin. The skincare routine for

By Barb Presswood

Neutrogena. Then treat as oily skin, keeping the surface dry and clean with the occasional application of astringent. Apply moisturizer to the drier cheek and neck areas.

That's all there is to it - There's no mystery to skin care. It doesn't have to involve complicated procedures. It's the dally repetition that counts. Follow the routine suggested for your skin type two or three times a day, eat healthy foods and get a little exercise, and we'll guarantee that within a week, your complexion will be noticeably improved. And you'll be well on your way to achieving the

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sizes and ages and from and they sit on community them are elderly and retired. Some are young students. Others are working men and women, yet they still find the time to community who need them

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#### sure the soap is mild. Clear, glycerine-type soaps are best. this type of skin is more complicated because, as you might expect, you have to do two separate routines. But keep it as simple as you can. To cleanse, use a mild soap, such as Pears or

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