REALSIMPLE

life made easier

beauty BUDGET MOISTURIZERS

For Problem Areas and Breakout-Prone Skin

A combination of dry skin and acne can be annoying: How do you treat one without worsening the other? Go with a lotion, not a cream, says Sandy Tsao. And make sure it is noncomedogenic (doesn't clog pores). Protect hands with products that contain thick emollients, which trap water within the skin, and apply them throughout the day. For dry feet, a heavy cream containing a chemical exfoliant, such as urea or lactic acid, will help soften calluses.

OLAY QUENCH RAPID .

REPAIR HAND LOTION, \$5

The main emollient, jojoba oil, helps to heal the skin's moisture barrier and hydrate chapped, dry hands. One tester gave it a moisturized thumbs-up. "My skin felt smooth, not tacky," she said.

DOVE NOURISHING

HAND CREAM, \$6

PROFOOT HEEL RESCUE SUPERIOR MOISTURIZING FOOT CREAM, \$7

You want your feet hydrated. but you certainly don't want to slip around in your socks. The nongreasy formula lets you put on hose right after application, while the urea and mineral oil help smooth out rough heels and soften skin.

PEDIFIX MANGO MAGIC FOOT LOTION, \$7

If you want to reduce product clutter, this versatile foot lotion can perform double duty as a body moisturizer. In addition to urea and mineral oil, it contains aloe vera, vitamin E, and lanolin.

CLEAN & CLEAR OIL-FREE DUAL ACTION MOISTURIZER, \$6

Salicylic acid is abundant in acne-fighting products, but too much can be harsh on dry spots. The small amount in this lotion is effective against acne without pulling moisture from dry areas.

This effective salve has sweet almond oil and shea butter to moisturize and a clean scent. It is also quickly absorbed. "It helped with my dry cuticles," declared one tester. "And the best part? No slippery hands."

What's in a Name?

These over-the-counter products not only look and sound medicinal but also are effective for treating dry skin.

Dove.

Cream

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AQUAPHOR HEALING OINTMENT: A petrolatum balm for cracked lips or skin and minor cuts. It can also be used on babies' irritated skin. AMLACTIN: A 12 percent lactic acid lotion to soften rough, dry skin on elbows and feet.

CORTAID INTENSIVE THERAPY MOISTURIZING CREAM: A hydrocortisone cream for treating irritation and eczema, psoriasis, and seborrheic dermatitis on the body.

Follow two easy steps for softer skin: Stick to warm (not hot) showers, and apply lotion while skin is still damp from the shower or bath.