

SHOULD MINORS BE PROHIBITED FROM PURCHASING ANTI-AGING SKINCARE PRODUCTS?

The “glass-skin” trend on social media has made skincare cool among teens and even preteens—but not all products are designed with young people in mind. Influencers often promote multi-step routines using products that contain powerful ingredients like retinol or chemical exfoliants, originally intended for adults treating signs of aging. Dermatologists warn that these ingredients can be too harsh for young skin, leading to redness, irritation, or long-term damage. They also argue that teens don’t need expensive serums or wrinkle creams to take care of their skin. Still, many teens want to join in on the trend, which is often tied to identity, self-expression, and fitting in. This raises a question: should there be age restrictions on buying anti-aging skincare products?



Quick Facts

The global skincare industry was valued at \$115 billion in 2024.

American women spend an average of \$3,756 a year on beauty products and services.

76% of parents with girls said their 7- to 17-year-olds have “skincare routines.”

78% of teenagers reported watching beauty tutorials online.



YES, MINORS SHOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM PURCHASING

There should be limits on what skincare products minors can buy—especially ones designed for older skin. Just because something is popular doesn’t mean it’s safe. Many teens don’t fully understand the risks of using products meant to treat wrinkles or resurface skin, and companies rarely make that clear in their advertising. Some of these products can cause peeling, burning, or long-term sensitivity, especially in preteens. Setting age restrictions would protect young people’s health and send a message to beauty brands and social influencers that they shouldn’t target kids with adult products. It would also reduce pressure on teens to buy expensive products just to keep up with trends. No one should feel like they have to spend \$100 on a serum to have “good” skin, especially when a basic, affordable skincare routine is enough.

NO, MINORS SHOULDN’T BE PROHIBITED

Teens should have the freedom to choose how they care for their skin. Many young people are informed consumers who research products and make thoughtful decisions. Just as we don’t ban minors from buying makeup or hair dye, we shouldn’t police their skincare choices. Instead, we should focus on education—teaching teens to read ingredient labels and understand what works best for their skin. Some anti-aging products, like gentle serums or hydrating creams, may even benefit teens with acne or oiliness. And let’s be real: enforcing age limits at beauty stores or online would be nearly impossible. Rather than banning access, we should empower teens to take control of their routines in safe, smart ways.

