



Chapter 18. Skin Cleansing, Toning & Moisturizing

Welcome to Day 43 of your Ayurveda Cosmetology course! Today, we'll delve into the foundational steps of a **daily skincare routine**—cleanse, tone, and moisturize—through an **Ayurvedic** lens. By personalizing these steps to **Vata**, **Pitta**, or **Kapha** constitutions, you can achieve a more **holistic**, balanced approach to skin health.

1. Ayurvedic Rationale for CTM

In modern skincare, "CTM" (Cleanse, Tone, Moisturize) is a common regimen. Ayurveda similarly emphasizes **gentle** cleansing, **appropriate** toning, and **dosha-specific** hydration. This method:

1. **Supports Dosha Balance:** Adjust product ingredients and temperatures based on dryness (Vata), heat (Pitta), or oiliness (Kapha).
2. **Maintains Skin Barrier:** Uses **mild, natural** cleansers and toners instead of harsh chemicals.
3. **Prevents Ama Accumulation:** Encourages removal of daily external impurities (dust, sweat) in a gentle, non-stripping way.

2. Cleansing the Ayurvedic Way

A. Choosing a Cleanser

1. **Herbal Powders**
 - **Chickpea Flour (Besan):** Gently exfoliates, suitable for normal to oily or combination skin.
 - **Masoor Dal (Red Lentil) Powder:** Mild cleansing for dull or slightly dry skin.
 - **Oatmeal:** Softens and hydrates, good for Vata or sensitive Pitta types.
2. **Mild Herbal Soaps or Ubatan**
 - Ubatan (a mix of pulses, grains, and herbs) can be used occasionally for deeper cleansing.
 - Avoid harsh surfactants that deplete the natural skin barrier.
3. **Temperature Considerations**
 - For **Vata** dryness, use lukewarm water—avoid extremely hot or cold.
 - For **Pitta**, cool to lukewarm water so as not to exacerbate heat.
 - For **Kapha**, warm water can help open pores and remove excess oil.

B. Cleansing Steps

1. **Minimal** amount of chosen cleanser is applied to damp skin.
2. **Gentle Circular Motions:** Work from T-zone outward, focusing on congested areas if Kapha or Pitta.
3. **Short Duration:** Ayurvedic cleansers typically do not remain on the skin for long—rinse thoroughly after mild friction.

3. Toning for Balance

A. Toning Role in Ayurveda

While classic Ayurvedic texts may not mention "toner" per se, they do reference **skin-refreshing waters** or **hydrosols** that help refine pores and calm skin post-cleansing.

1. **Rose Water (Gulab Jal)**
 - Universally calming and mildly astringent. Great for **Pitta** or normal skin.
2. **Lavender Hydrosol**

- Soothing for **Vata**, mild dryness, or sensitivity.

3. Witch Hazel or Vetiver Water

- Tighter, more astringent for **Kapha** or oily T-zone management.

B. Application Tips

1. Misting or Cotton Pad

- Lightly mist the face or use a cotton pad to dab toner gently.

2. Dosha Attunement

- If dryness is present (Vata), ensure the toner isn't too drying. Possibly skip or reduce frequency if it aggravates dryness.
- For Pitta, a cooling toner is ideal. Kapha might enjoy a slightly more astringent or stimulating toner.

4. Moisturizing & Hydration

A. Selecting Moisturizers

1. Light Creams or Gels

- For **Pitta** or combination skin, a lighter base (aloe or rose-infused gel) might suffice.
- For **Kapha** with oiliness, a mild lotion or minimal moisturizer is enough.

2. Oil-Based Moisturizers

- For **Vata** dryness, choose richer oils (sesame, almond) or thicker creams—especially in cold/dry climates.
- Consider saffron-based or kumkumadi taila for gentle brightening if dryness or uneven tone is a concern.

3. Consistency & Season

- In humid months, even Vata skin might prefer a lighter formula.
- In winter, dryness intensifies—layering an oil-based moisturizer or applying a small drop of oil under the cream can help.

B. Application Steps

1. **Small Amount:** Dot moisturizer on forehead, cheeks, chin, and gently massage in upward circular motions.

2. **Avoid Overdoing:** For Kapha or oily T-zone, a minimal approach prevents pore congestion.

3. **Massage:** A brief facial rub during moisturizing can stimulate blood flow, akin to a mini Mukhabhyanga.

5. Integrating CTM into Daily Routine

Morning

1. **Cleanse:** Mild herbal or light foam if extremely oily.
2. **Tone:** Quick rose/lavender spritz.
3. **Moisturize:** Dosha-based lotion or oil, plus sun protection if needed.

Evening

1. **Cleanse:** Remove daily impurities, especially if wearing makeup or sunblock.
2. **Tone:** Clarify pores before bedtime.
3. **Moisturize:** Possibly a richer or more targeted cream for nighttime repair (ex. kumkumadi taila for Vata dryness or mild uneven tone).

Optional Weekly Exfoliation

- Add a **gentle** scrub or mild herbal mask 1-2 times weekly to remove dead cells, adapt to dryness or oil levels.



6. Indications & Contraindications

Indications

- All skin types—**CTM** is universal, just **customized** by dosha.
- Mild dryness, dullness, or mild breakouts—topical routine can help maintain clarity and glow.

Contraindications

- **Severe Acne** or skin infection—must tailor the cleansers carefully, possibly avoid certain oils that could aggravate.
- **Extremely sensitive** or inflamed skin—use caution with toners or scrubs, focusing on very gentle, soothing steps.

7. Quick Dosha Recap for CTM

- **Vata**: Warm water cleansing, gentle toner (or skip if dryness is intense), heavier moisturizer/oil.
- **Pitta**: Cool/lukewarm water, cooling toner (rose water), light or moderate moisturizer without heavy oils.
- **Kapha**: Warm water cleansing, possibly an astringent toner, light or minimal moisturizer.

Conclusion

Cleansing, Toning, and Moisturizing in the Ayurvedic context seamlessly merges **natural, dosha-aligned** products with mindful techniques. By observing the skin's daily or seasonal changes, you adapt the regimen—keeping dryness at bay for Vata, cooling sensitivities for Pitta, and preventing congestion for Kapha. This approach underscores Ayurveda's core principle: **personalization** is key for radiance and balance.

End of Day 43: You've now learned the fundamentals of **Skin CTM (Cleanse-Tone-Moisturize)**, framed by Ayurvedic wisdom. Tomorrow (Day 44), we'll explore **Ekamooliya Dravyas**—single-herb solutions that can boost skin health with minimal complexity. Keep refining your daily skincare approach for truly **holistic** results!