

neck cream

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Neck and Décolleté Cream

A moisturiser sold for the neck and chest. The anatomical differences behind the category are real; the case that they require a *separate purchase* is much weaker, and this page will say so.

What is different below the jaw

- **Fewer sebaceous glands**, so less natural lubrication and faster dryness than the face.
- **Thinner dermis** with less structural collagen over much of the area.
- **Constant movement** — the neck flexes and rotates all day, and the horizontal neck lines that result are creases in the same sense that a folded page has a crease.
- **Heavy, chronic sun exposure that is almost never protected.** Most people apply sunscreen to the face and stop at the jawline. Over decades this produces the classic V-shaped chest photodamage — mottled pigment, redness, crepe texture — which dermatology recognises as poikiloderma of Civatte.
- **Sleep creasing** on the chest, from side-sleeping, which is mechanical.

What actually helps

The interventions with evidence are the same ones that work on the face, applied to an area that usually gets neither:

1. **Sunscreen, extended down.** By a wide margin the largest lever, and free if you already own the bottle. Neck, chest, and the back of the neck.
2. **Retinoids**, introduced slowly. Neck skin irritates more readily than facial skin, so at lower frequency.
3. **Moisturisation**, because the area is drier by default.
4. **Antioxidants and pigment actives** for the mottling.

Nothing topical addresses **platysmal banding or submental laxity**. Those are muscle and fat, and the honest answer is that they belong to a clinician's toolkit — energy devices, injectables, surgery — or to acceptance.

The purchase question

A neck cream is typically a rich facial moisturiser with a firming-peptide story and a higher price per millilitre. There is nothing wrong with the products; the question is whether the same money buys more result spent on a larger tube of good facial moisturiser used generously from forehead to nipple line, plus sunscreen. **In most cases it does.**

Where a dedicated product earns its place: a formula deliberately built richer for an area that is drier, or one that is fragrance-free where the facial product is not — the neck is a common site of fragrance-related contact dermatitis, precisely because perfume is applied there.

Where it sits in the rules

Cosmetic in the US — FDA primary category (14). "Firming", "lifting", and "reduces the appearance of lines" are cosmetic appearance claims and are permitted. A claim to tighten muscle, to affect the structure of the skin, or to work like a surgical procedure crosses into **drug** territory under FD&C Act sec. 201(g), because it asserts an effect on the structure or function of the body — and FDA has issued warning letters over exactly that class of anti-ageing wording.

Shelf life

Six to twelve months after opening; jar formats less. Retinoid-containing neck products need opaque, air-restricting packaging like any other. Fragranced products applied to the neck are worth watching for reaction over time, since oxidised fragrance components are more sensitising than fresh ones.

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- [Sunscreen Lotion](#) — the intervention that actually changes the outcome here.
- Regulatory statements here follow the FDA and EU sources listed on [Cosmetics](#), read 16 August 2026.