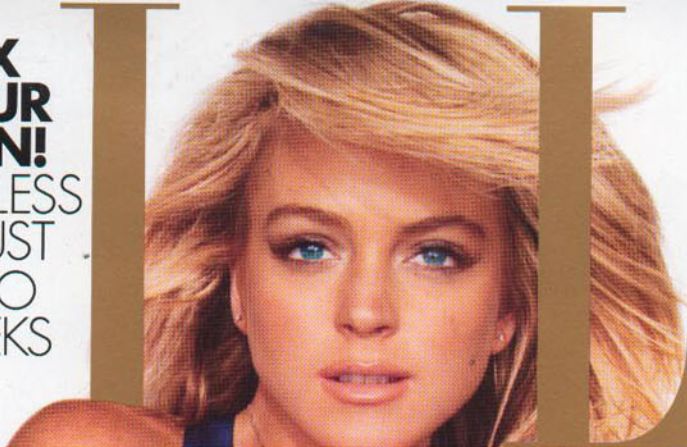


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SPOTLIGHT ON: Pore Minimizers

To capture the real meaning of pores, you need to fuse the word's two definitions: "a minute opening" and "to study attentively." That is to say, tiny holes with which people are obsessed.

SHRINK TO FIT

(From left) Bioré Pore Perfect Unclogging Pore Scrub; Estée Lauder



The same rogue factors (smoking, sun exposure) that contribute to wrinkles, loose skin, and brown spots lead to saggy pores. "UVA rays and free radicals degrade collagen, the skin's support fibers, and decrease elasticity," says David E. Bank, MD, a dermatologist in Mount Kisco, New York. Empty pores are, obviously, less visible than clogged ones. "The goal is to keep pores clean and at their smallest," says Bank, who notes that the steaming and cooling of traditional facials won't actually shrink pores. "Heat softens sebum to reduce clogging, while cold water constricts blood flow and tightens skin," he says. "But neither changes a pore's size."

able pores. Melanin, along with sebum and dead cells, works its way up the inside of the channel and adds to a plug's dark appearance," says Daniel Maes, PhD, the vice president of research and development at Estée Lauder. The brand's Idealist Pore Minimizing Skin Refinisher contains the enzyme melanase, which eliminates some pigment buildup; glucos-

dermis, Chasin says.

Not everyone is convinced that Isolaz treatments can minimize pore size permanently. "Reducing their content will decrease their size temporarily," says Dennis Gross, MD, dermatologist in New York City. "But pores will definitely fill up again."—NICOLE CATANESE

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