



NYLON

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DHC Whip Cleansing Oil \$15
www.DHCcare.com

OIL CHANGE

TAPE ILLUSTRATION BY KAYT HESTER-LENT

After the Exxon Valdez oil spill back in '89, the teachers at my ultra-p.c. elementary school had us pour canola oil into water-filled lasagna pans. Using a string, we tried to separate out the grease (lasso-style), which didn't work. Thus, we learned how difficult it would be to remedy the problem and began saving our allowances for the sea otters. Just a few years later, I would mimic the other junior high school girls and blot every slice of pizza, resulting in a heap of greasy napkins perhaps more unsettling than the Body Dysmorphic Disorder that inspired them. I was in high school when those Bioré anti-shine papers gained popularity and used them dutifully after phys-ed (yes, sometimes instead of soap). In college, I chided my sorority girl friends that used suntan oil at the beach, while sharing their dressing-less salads.

There you have it: My attitude toward oil is based on puberty and environmental crises, resulting in a policy of quiet avoidance (except when expensive pasta is involved). So despite the artsy packaging and deceptive monikers I was, when shown a bag full of "cleansing oils," skeptical. Some are meant as pre-cleansers (their fancy grease attracts your nasty grease, and you wash it away with soap), others as the main event. The companies position them as old Hollywood (great for waterproof makeup!) or modern New York (they counter pollution!). I had to investigate—I mean, they don't call it snake oil for nothing, right? OK, they call it snake oil because a cowboy named Clark "The Rattlesnake King" Stanley slaughtered hundreds of snakes at the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago, processed the juices, and sold it as a general panacea. So, nothing to do with cleansing oils. "These cleansers are gentle but deeply purify the skin, especially if you load on sunblock and makeup," says Janis Chakler, an aesthe-

tician and director of Restore Spa in New York, who advises against use on acne-prone skin. There's no need to wrestle a serpent, and not all oils are created equal: she says to look for cleansers with neem (antiseptic), rice bran oil (oxygenating) or orange oil (hydrating). "People tend to overdose on scrubs and only spend a fraction of the time they should on cleansing," observes Chakler. So it seems that despite spending my adolescent years in fear of oil, grease is in fact the word. Bah-dum-dum. AVERY DILLON

FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Shu Uemura Skin Purifier
Premium Cleansing Oil, Canita Ultra-Nourishing Dry Oil,
Decleor Aromessence Neroli Comforting Concentrate, Dr.

Hauschka Normalizing Day Oil, Laura Mercier Flawless
Skin Purifying Oil in Rich, Sundari Essential Oil for Pitta
Skin, Dermalogica PreCleanser, SK-II Facial Treatment

Cleansing Oil, M.A.C. Cleanse Off Oil, Anore Pacific
Treatment Cleansing Oil, Aromatherapy Associates Renew
Rose and Sandalwood Facial Oil, DHC Whip Cleansing

Oil, Korres Wild Rose Imperfection Targeting Oil, Trilogy
Organic Rosehip Oil, Håkansson The Oil, La Mer The
Cleansing Fluid, Essencia Revitalize Face and Body Oil.

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