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Review: I Tried Starskin's Detoxing Sea Kelp Leaf Sheet Mask

BY SARAH KINONEN | MAY 26, 2017



By now, y'all should know how much I love trying weird beauty products. Since my time at *Allure*, I've openly shared my experience of test-driving unconventional skin-care products, like that one time I slapped on a neck sheet mask while topless, or another time when I lathered up with a bouncy balloon-like cleanser while nearly blind in the shower. Bottom line, I will *literally* try anything once. Consider me *Allure*'s YOLO editor. (Is that still a thing?)

My latest experiment sprung from a recent deskside meeting with Starskin, a Korean skin-care brand that's recently made its way stateside. I was introduced to its Master Cleanser Mask Detoxing Sea Kelp Leaf Face Mask, which is made entirely of sea kelp, as the name suggests. We're talking serious, 100 percent *real* sea kelp leaves, which, according to the brand's founder Nicole Arnoldussen, are hand-harvested — before being drenched in a hydrating essence filled with organic plant extracts, like chlorella, bamboo, and soybeans — in a small fishing town of Wando on an island in Southwestern Korea. It's said that each mask takes 1,304 hours to create, beginning from the time of sea kelp harvest to package production.

Fascinated (and thoroughly impressed, TBH) by all the work that goes in to manufacturing just *one* sheet mask, I felt it was my duty to give the treatment a try for myself. And after speaking with Beverly Hills–based dermatologist [Ava Shamban](#), who told me sea kelp, which is rich in essential fatty acids, is *great* for the skin and can help prevent signs of premature aging, I was more than ready to give this slimy green mask a go.

After cleansing one evening, I ripped open the mask, which comes in two halves, and gently slapped each half onto my face. But wait. Even before I could get these puppies on my mug, I was almost blown away by the sea kelp's pungent aroma. It was *so* strong. Not bad, not good — but very sea kelp-y. Still, the scent wore off down after a few minutes, and I was well on my way to brighter skin.

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While the instructions recommend 15 minutes of wear, I decided to call it quits after about ten. The combination of the two mask halves sliding off my face and my cat's incessant meowing (I think she really wanted to eat my mask, but who knows?), made me give up sooner than I would have liked, but such is life. I was still able to see visible results after peeling off the green gooey treatment. My skin was noticeably brighter and my underlying redness subsided for the rest of the evening. Oh, and I smelled like a sushi restaurant. Again, my cat didn't seem to mind. Overall, I'd say this was a fun one. A *smelly* fun one, but definitely worth doing again.

<http://www.allure.com/story/starskin-detoxing-sea-kelp-leaf-sheet-mask-review>