

## BEAUTY SPOT

# Vichy takes on spotty complexions



Vichy Normaderm Total Mat retails for \$27.95.

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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

At bedtime at my house lately you will often find three funny green facés.

My kids and I have all been trying out the Vichy Normaderm anti-imperfection system.

I remember coveting Vichy's acne goops — and the clear skin they promised — when the products first launched in Canada in 1986. It was a spotty time in my life. I always responded to the idea that the French thermal mountain water was a cure-all for all kinds of conditions (something about sanatoriums in F. Scott Fitzgerald novels). Indeed, the brand goes back to 1931 and all its products do incorporate the magic water, which contains some 15 key but mysterious minerals.

The green paste in question is the Tri-Activ Mask (\$19.95), made of 25 per cent clay. It feels great to slough off the oily slime of a sticky day and takes me back to being a teenager again. (This is not just me goofing around and keeping my own acne-plagued offspring company; this cougar has her own spots). The mask has salicylic and glycolic acids and its overall

effect is to make you feel deeply cleansed and matte.

Matte is *the* word right now with loads of products promising shine control. The truly new player in the 12-piece Vichy Normaderm orchestra is Vichy Normaderm Total Mat Oil and Shine Control Fresh Hydrating Gel (\$27.95). This is what you should use day and night to control shine, cut perspiration and fight acne while hydrating the skin. The salicylic acid is an anti-inflammatory and antibacterial agent while the gel texture fights simultaneous dryness while beating back shine. Because if you have red spots, there is nothing worse than a layer of sweat and shine to make you feel like Rudolph.

Finally, I tucked the Anti-Imperfection Concentrate (\$21) and the Concealer Stick (\$14.95), into everyone's camp bags this year.

Both are spot treatments and the stick has a tiny bit of skin-toned coverup.

But, as with everything these days, my kids really do their own research on the latest products. There apparently is a Facebook support page where the bulk of the line's target audience is more likely to go to glean information.

The line is only sold in drugstores where there are beauty advisers to help less keyboard-friendly consumers wade through the weeds. Look for locations at [www.vichy.ca](http://www.vichy.ca).