



SkinRx.help

The app, explained

A manual for the iPhone and iPad app

24 September 2026 — version 1.0.2 (build 9). Every screen illustrated from the app, with numbered keys and diagrams; the iPad in chapter 15.

Contents

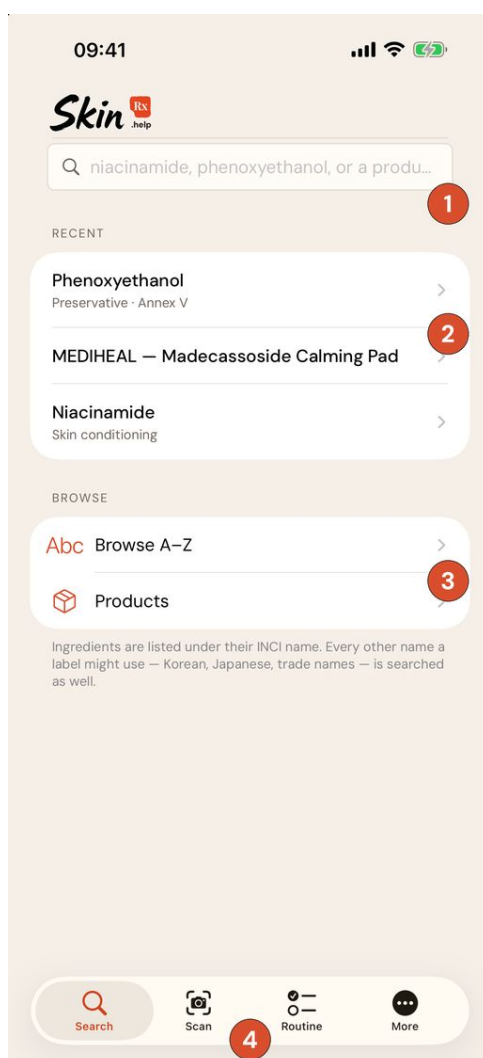
- 1 Quick start
 - 2 Getting around
 - 3 Finding an ingredient
 - 4 Reading an ingredient record
 - 5 Reading a product record
 - 6 Decoding a label: paste, photograph or barcode
 - 7 Reading a routine
 - 8 What the badges and the 1% line mean
 - 9 How the app stays up to date
 - 10 Reporting an error
 - 11 What's new, About and Settings
 - 12 Supporting SkinRx.help
 - 13 Privacy, in plain words
 - 14 If something does not work
 - 15 On iPad
 - 16 Larger text and VoiceOver
 - 17 Glossary
- Appendix Every screen at a glance

1 Quick start

SkinRx.help is a reference for what is actually in a skincare product. It holds the European Commission's glossary of common ingredient names — 32,263 of them — together with the EU annexes that say which substances are prohibited, restricted or permitted as colorants, preservatives and UV filters, and the ingredient lists of the products in the SkinRevu catalogue. All of it lives on your phone. Nothing needs a connection.

Three things you can do straight away:

- 1 Type an ingredient name into the Search tab — an INCI name, a trade name, a Korean or Japanese name — and open its record.
- 2 Go to the Scan tab and photograph the ingredients panel of a bottle, or paste its ingredients list. The app tells you what each name is and what the label adds up to.
- 3 Go to the Routine tab, choose morning or evening, add the products you use, and read the routine as a whole.

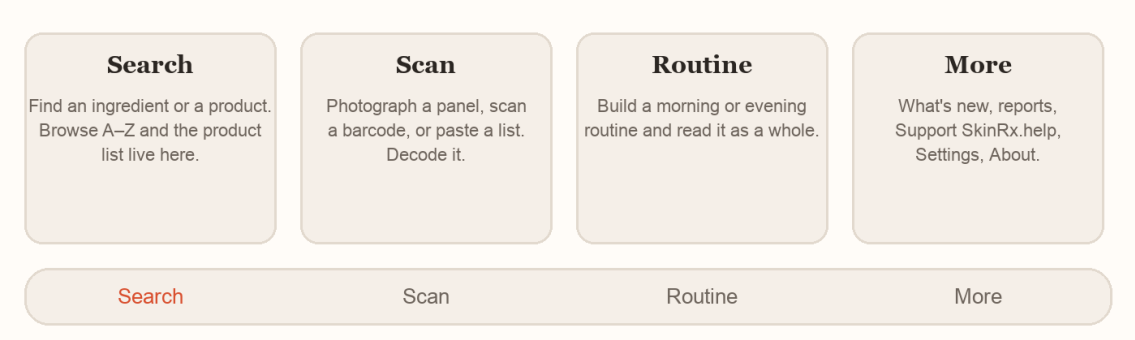


The Search tab. Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 The search field. Type an INCI name, a trade name, or a Korean or Japanese name; results update as you type.
- 2 Recent — the last twenty ingredients and products you opened, kept on the phone.

- 3 Browse A–Z, every ingredient with a written summary or a place in a catalogue product; and Products, the catalogue, with four filters.
- 4 The four tabs: Search, Scan, Routine and More.

2 Getting around



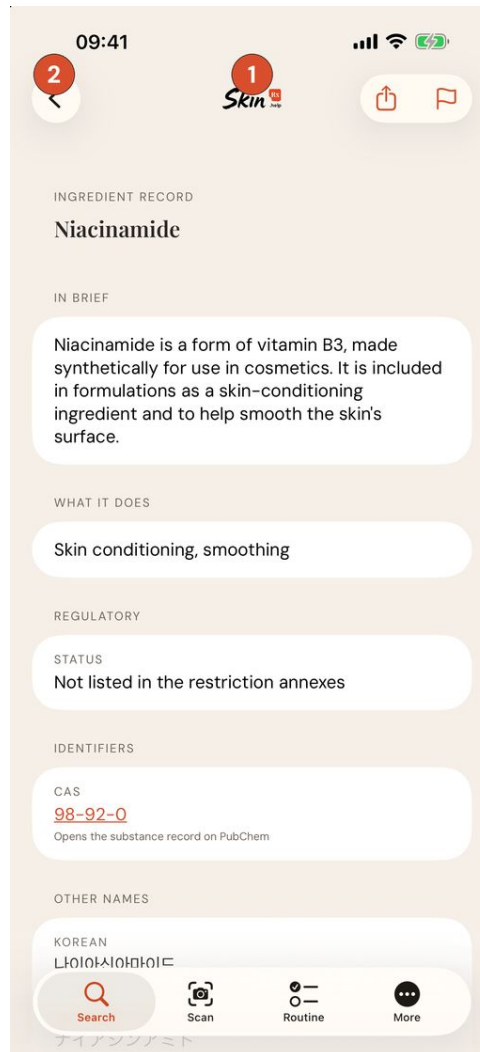
The four tabs and what each is for.

Tab	What it is for
Search	Find an ingredient or a product. Also holds Browse A–Z and the product list with its filters.
Scan	Decode a label: photograph the panel, scan the barcode, or paste the list.
Routine	Build a morning or evening routine from products or labels and read it as a whole.
More	What's new, Report an error, Your reports, Support SkinRx.help, Settings and About.

Two ways back. Every inner screen has the usual back arrow at the top left, which steps back one screen. Every inner screen also shows the SkinRx.help logo in the top bar: tap it and you are home on the Search tab, wherever you were. Tapping the tab you are already on also returns that tab to its first screen.



Two ways back: the arrow steps back once; the logo goes home.

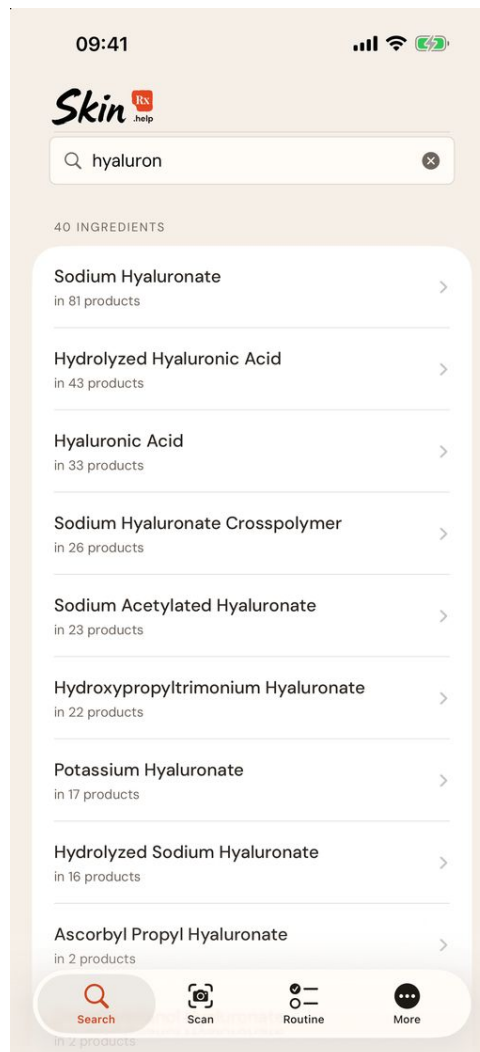


An inner screen: the logo (1) goes straight home; the back arrow (2) steps back once.

Links from skinrx.help open in the app. If someone sends you a link to an ingredient, a product or a shared routine, and the app is installed, the link opens it in the app rather than in Safari. A shared routine arrives as a routine of your own, saved on the phone and opened ready to read.

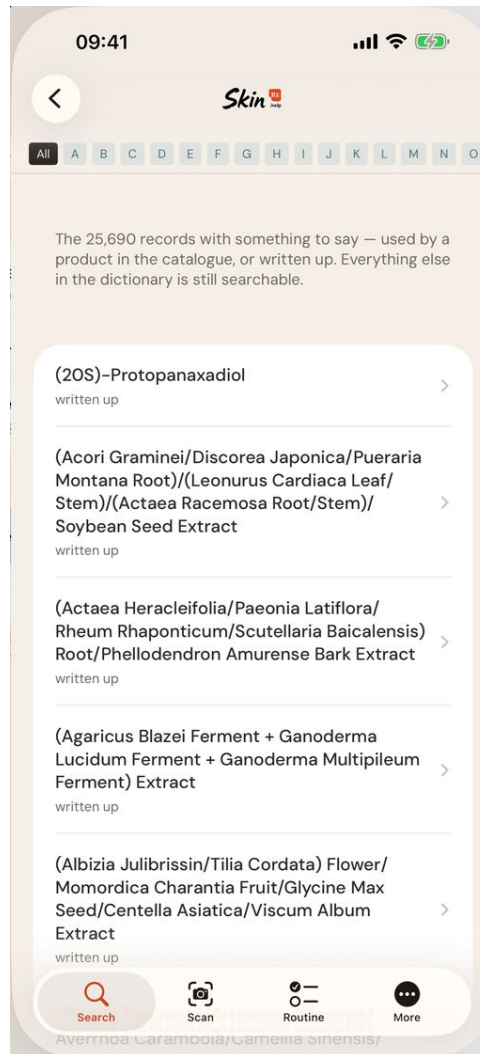
3 Finding an ingredient

Tap the Search tab and start typing. Results update with every letter. You can type an INCI name (the name used on labels worldwide), a trade name or abbreviation the reference knows, or a Korean or Japanese name — the reference holds the names that Korean and Japanese labels use for common ingredients and matches them to the same records. When a result was matched through another name, it says so — for example “matched 나이아신아마이드”. If you turn on Help improve the dictionary in Settings, a search that finds nothing at all — no ingredient and no product — is sent to skinrx.help once you stop typing or tap Search on the keyboard, so the name can be added.



Results appear as you type: each row says how many catalogue products hold the ingredient, or that it is not in the catalogue, carries a chip only where the annexes list it, and says when the match came through another name.

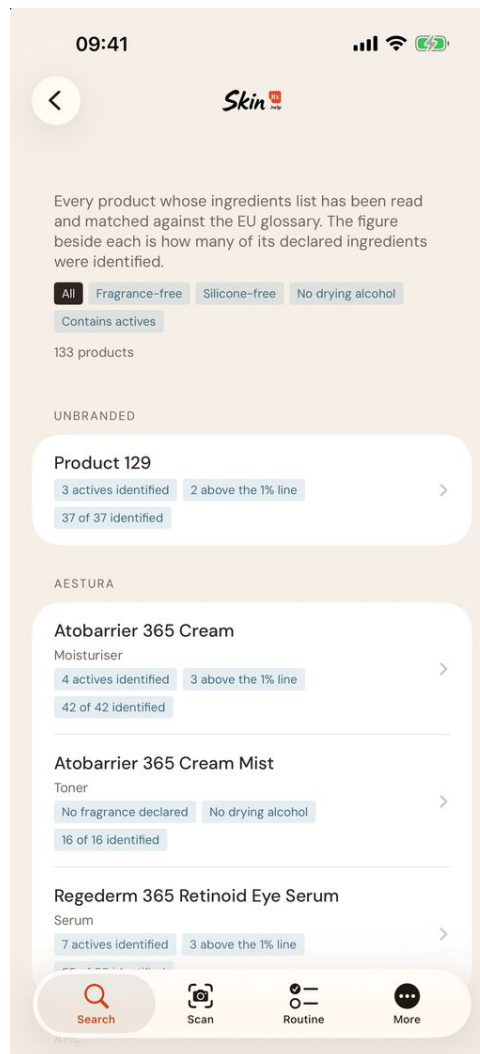
Browse A–Z



Browse A–Z: the ingredients with something to say, with a letter strip that stays put; each row says how many catalogue products use the ingredient, or that it is written up.

Under the search field when it is empty, Browse A–Z lists the ingredients that either appear in a catalogue product or have a written summary. A letter strip stays on screen so you can jump; the last chip, #, holds every name that does not start with a letter, such as those beginning with a number or a bracket.

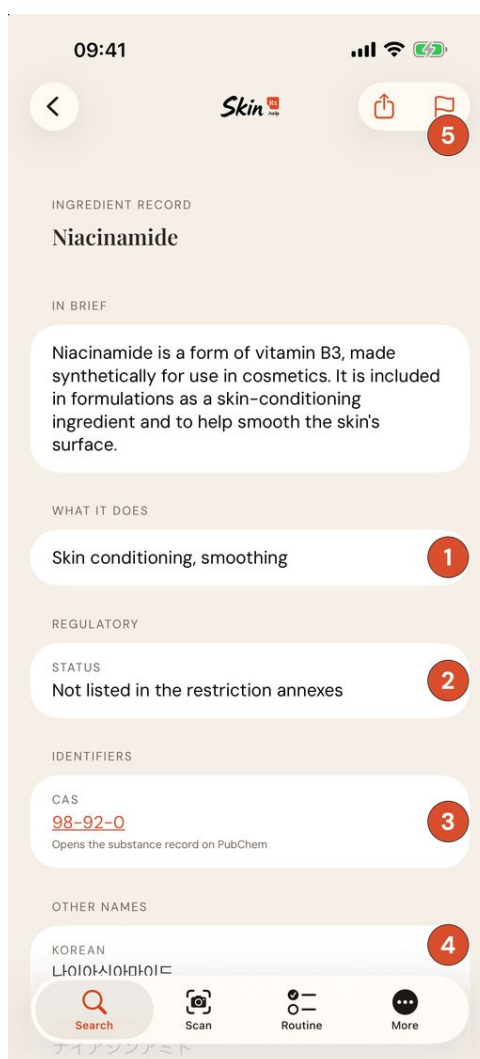
Products



The product list, with its four filters; each product shows up to two of its label flags and how many of its declared ingredients were identified.

Products lists the catalogue by brand and name, with four filters: Fragrance-free, Silicone-free, No drying alcohol, Contains actives. The filters use the same reading of each label that the product record shows. Your last twenty lookups appear under Recent on the Search tab, above Browse A–Z, and are kept on the phone.

4 Reading an ingredient record

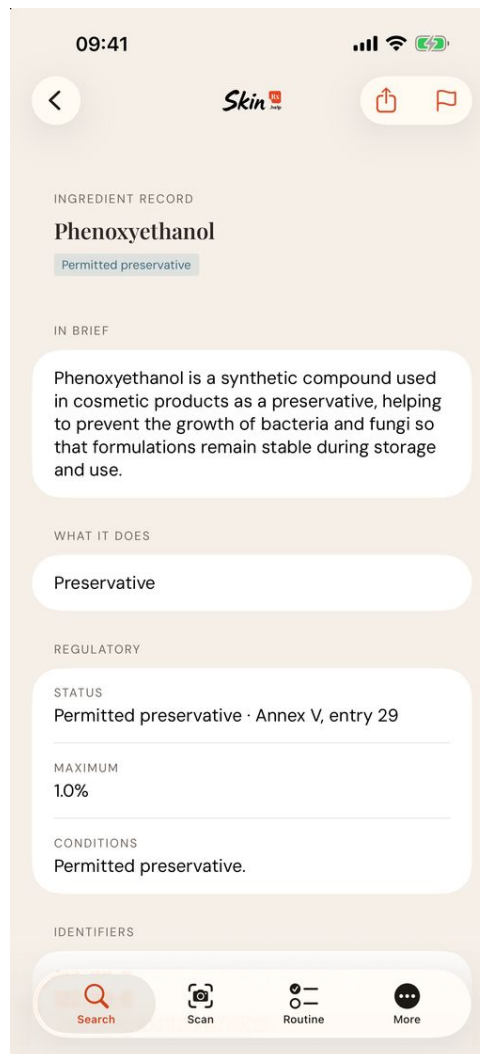


An ingredient record (Niacinamide). Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 What it does — the glossary's own words for what the ingredient does in a formula.
- 2 Regulatory status — here, not listed in the restriction annexes; where it is, the annex entry, the maximum concentration and the conditions appear.
- 3 CAS number — tap to open the substance on PubChem.
- 4 Other names — Korean, Japanese, and how it is also written.
- 5 Report an error, with the subject filled in. Beside it, Share sends the record and a short summary.

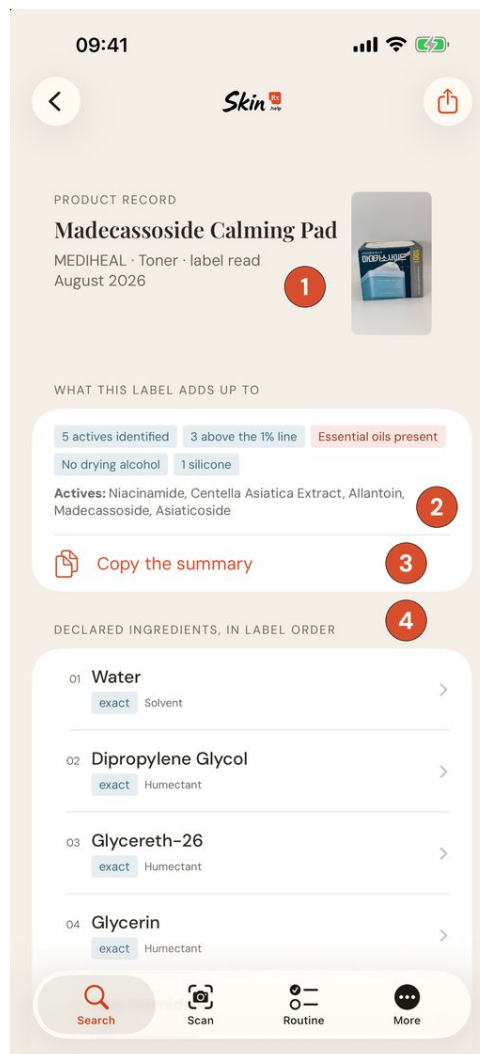
A record shows, in order: the INCI name, with a coloured chip beneath it only where the EU annexes list the ingredient — prohibited, restricted, or permitted as a colorant, a preservative or a UV filter — so most records carry no chip at all; In brief, a short summary of the ingredient, where there is one; What it does, the glossary's own words for what it does in a formula; the Regulatory block, which says the ingredient is not listed in the restriction annexes when there is nothing more to show; the CAS number (tap to open PubChem) and the EC number; Other names; In the catalogue, every product that contains it, each listed once, with its position on the label and whether it sits below the 1% line; a line saying where the regulatory fields come from, with the date it was checked and the confidence

only where it has been checked; and a Hear it button that says the name aloud, with the pronunciation beside it where one has been written.



A substance the annexes list (Phenoxyethanol, a permitted preservative): its chip, the annex and entry, the maximum concentration and the conditions.

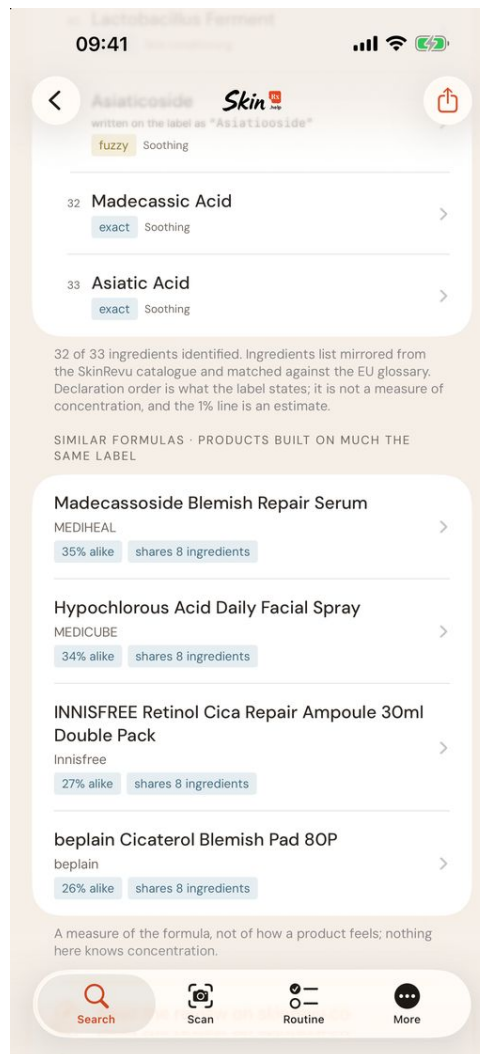
5 Reading a product record



A product record. Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 Name, brand, category, and when the label was read; the photograph, where there is one.
- 2 What this label adds up to — the chips and the list of actives.
- 3 Copy the summary — for a note, a message or a post.
- 4 Declared ingredients, in label order.

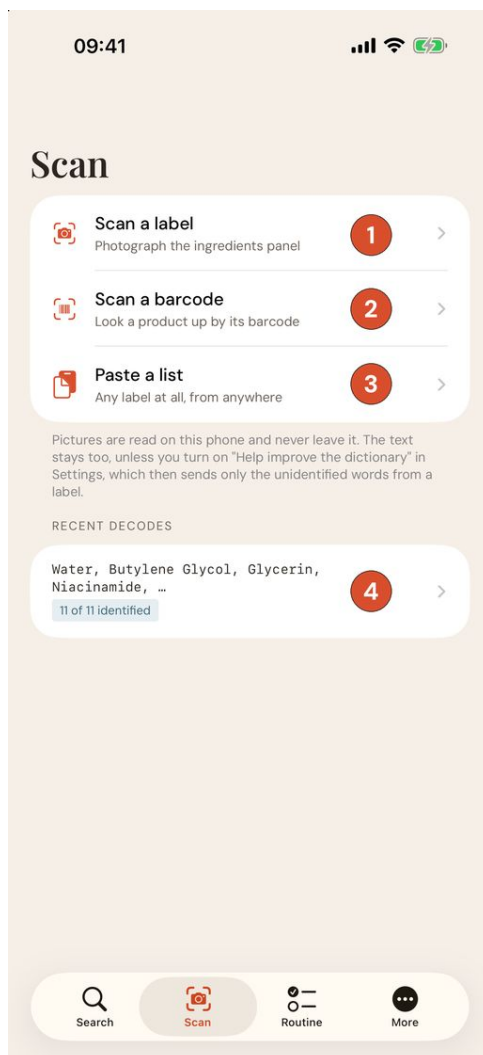
A product record is headed by its name; where the catalogue holds a product without one, the app calls it “Product” and its number. What this label adds up to lists the actives present, whether fragrance, declarable fragrance allergens or essential oils are declared, whether there is drying alcohol, whether there are silicones, and any UV filters. It says what is present; it does not promise what is absent unless that can be read reliably, and it never says “safe”. Ingredients are shown in label order. Each row gives its position, the reference name with the label’s own wording beneath it where the two differ, a badge saying how it was identified, and what it does; tap a row to open the ingredient. Anything not identified is shown, not hidden. The 1% line is drawn where the label allows it to be estimated.



Similar formulas: other catalogue products whose labels overlap most.

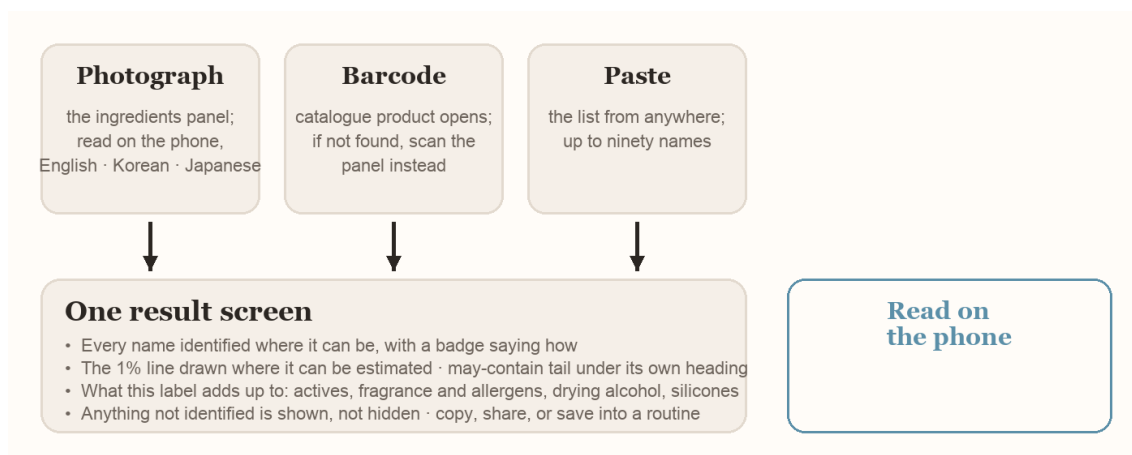
Similar formulas are other catalogue products whose labels overlap most with this one, with a score. The score is a measure of the formula, not of how a product feels; nothing here knows concentration. At the foot of the record, [Read the review on skinrevu.co](#) opens the product's review where there is one, and [Report an error with this record](#) opens a report with the product filled in.

6 Decoding a label: paste, photograph or barcode



The Scan tab. Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 Scan a label — photograph the ingredients panel.
- 2 Scan a barcode — look a product up.
- 3 Paste a list — from anywhere.
- 4 Recent decodes — your last twenty.

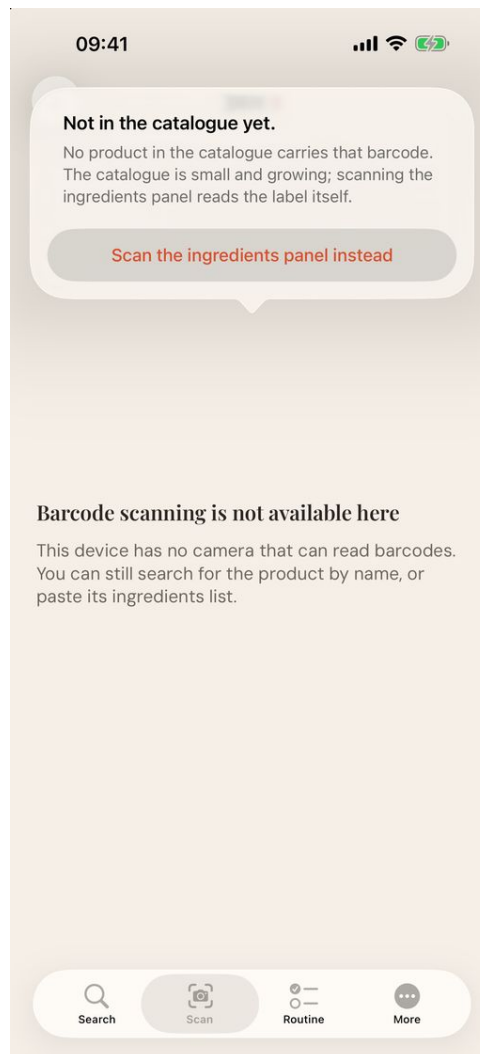


Three ways in, one result screen.

Photograph the panel

Tap Scan a label and allow the camera the first time it asks. Fill the frame with the panel, tap the text once to focus, hold the bottle still, and take the picture; curved bottles read best when the panel is flat to the camera. The app reads the text on the phone — English, Korean and Japanese — and shows it in a box you can edit. Fix anything the camera misread, then tap Read this label. The picture never leaves the phone.

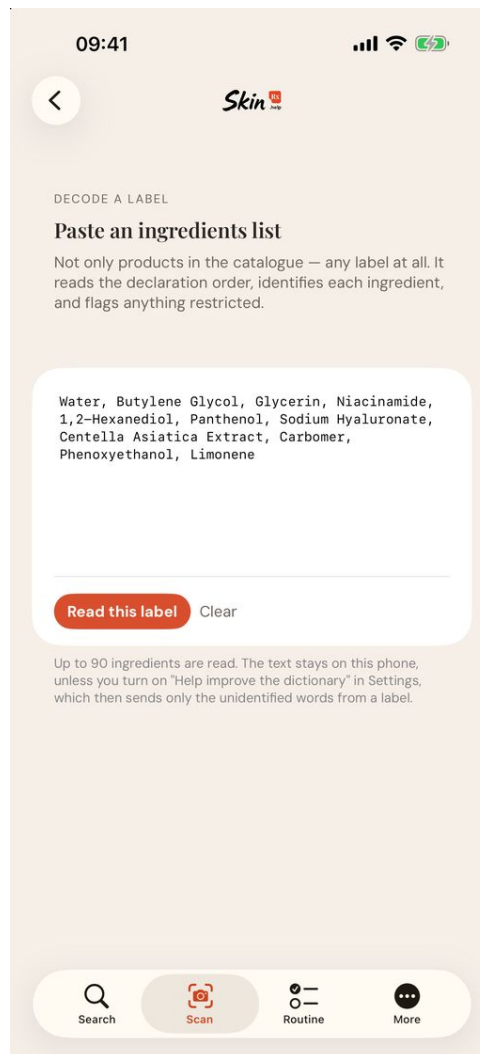
Scan the barcode



A barcode not in the catalogue: the app offers the label scanner instead — never a dead end.

Point the camera at the barcode. If the product is in the catalogue, its record opens. If it is not, the app says so and offers to scan the ingredients panel instead.

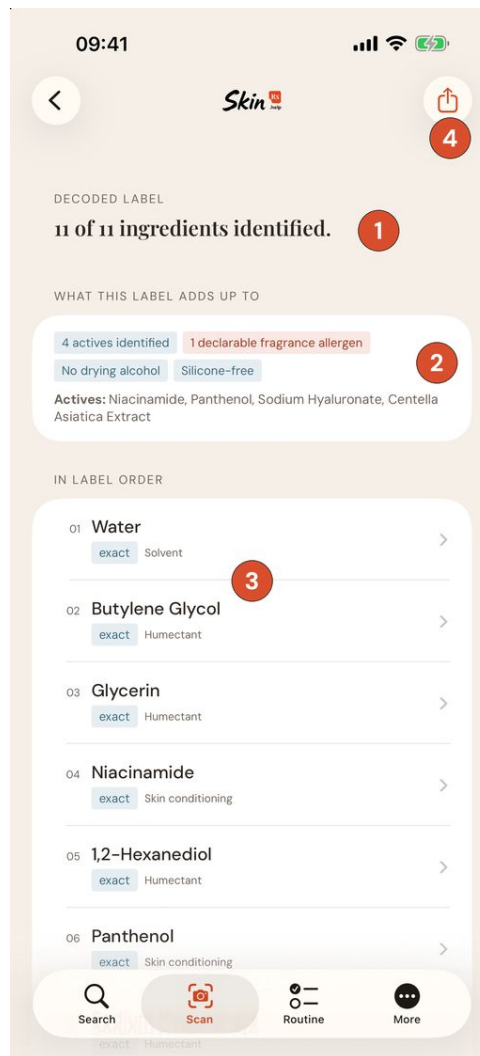
Paste the list



Paste a list from anywhere, then tap Read this label.

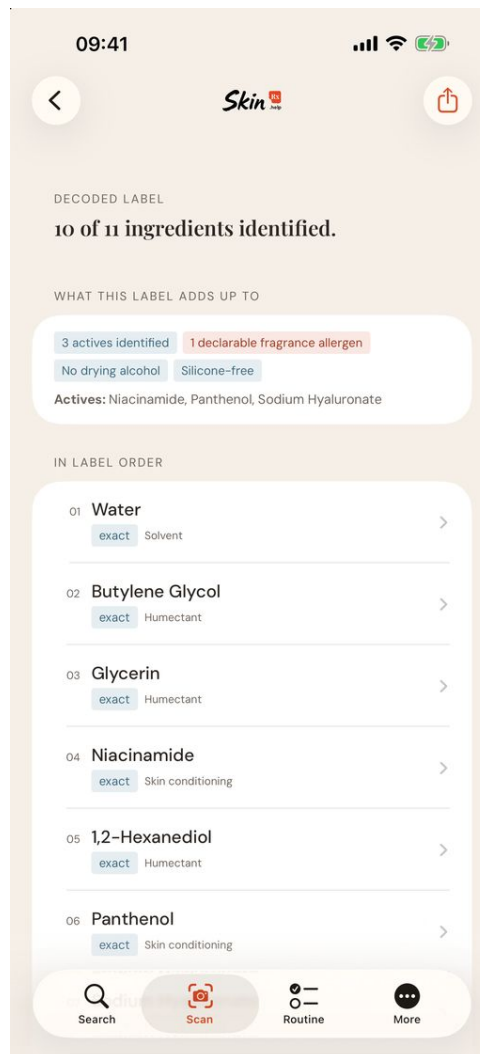
Paste the ingredients text and tap Read this label. Labels of up to ninety ingredients are read in full; longer ones are read to ninety and the app says so.

The result



A decoded label. Numbers refer to the key below.

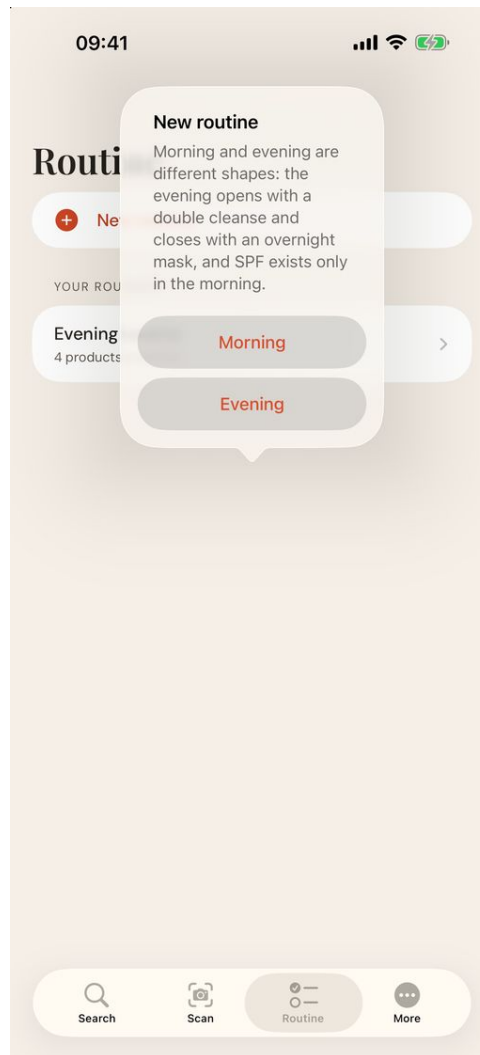
- 1 The count — how many of the names were identified.
- 2 What this label adds up to.
- 3 The list, in label order — each row with the badge that says how the name was identified (chapter 8).
- 4 Share.



Anything the app could not identify is listed, not hidden.

The result looks exactly like a product record's ingredient list, plus a list of anything the app could not identify. From here you can copy or share a summary, or save the label into a routine. If you turn on Help improve the dictionary in Settings, the app sends only the names it could not identify to skinrx.help — never the whole label, and only when at least a third of the label was identified.

7 Reading a routine

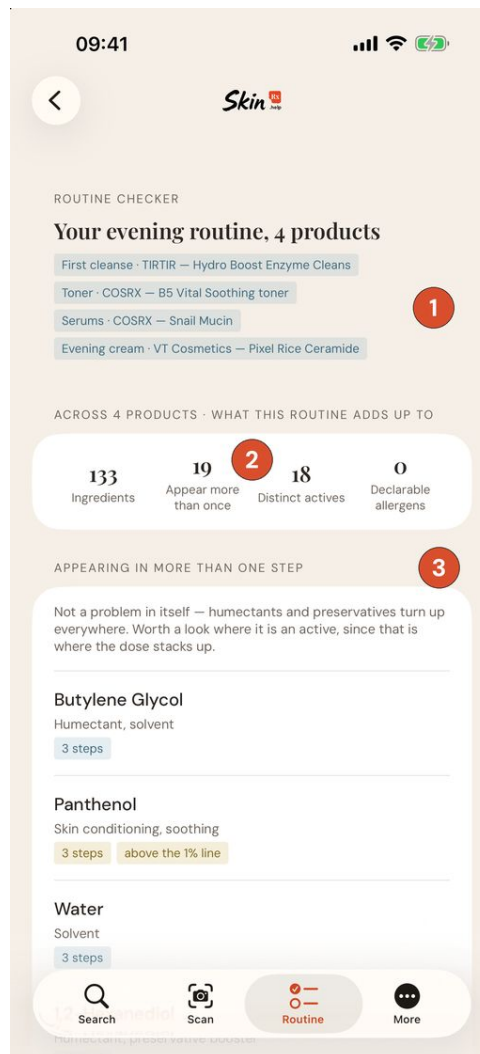


New routine: choose morning or evening.

Morning	Evening
1 Cleanse	1 First cleanse (balm or oil)
2 Toner	2 Second cleanse (foam, gel or water-based)
3 Serums	3 Exfoliate
4 Eye cream	4 Toner
5 Moisturiser	5 Serums
6 SPF	6 Eye cream
	7 Evening cream
	8 Overnight mask
Anything that fits no step goes to Anything else — visibly.	

The steps of a morning and an evening routine.

Tap the Routine tab, then New routine, and choose Morning or Evening. Add a product to a step by searching the catalogue, by scanning its barcode, or by photographing or pasting its label. A product simply called a cleanser is offered in both halves of the double cleanse. Anything that fits no step goes into Anything else, visibly.



A routine read as a whole. Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 The products in each step.
- 2 Four figures across the routine: ingredients, appearing more than once, distinct actives, declarable allergens.
- 3 Appearing in more than one step — with a note on when that matters.

Read the routine shows what appears in more than one step, which actives are stacking up across steps, the allergen load across the whole routine, and each product's own flags. Routines are saved on the phone. Share a link to this routine gives you a link that opens it on skinrx.help for anyone, and in the app for anyone who has it. Only the catalogue products you chose travel in the link; a label you pasted or photographed stays on the phone, and a routine made only of labels has no link to share.

8 What the badges and the 1% line mean

exact	matches the reference name once tidied
other name	matched through a synonym, trade name or translation
fuzzy	close but not identical — the nearest was chosen; worth a glance
not identified	no match in the reference; shown as printed

The four badges.

Badge	Meaning
Exact	The name on the label matches the reference name exactly, once spelling and punctuation are tidied.
Other name	The name was matched through a known alternative — a trade name, a translation, or a spelling the reference has learned.
Fuzzy	The name was close to a reference name but not identical; the app chose the nearest. Worth a glance.
Not identified	The reference has no match. The name is shown as printed so you can judge it yourself — and, if you wish, report it. On a product record the row reads “not yet identified”.

- 01 Water
- 02 Butylene Glycol
- 03 Glycerin
- 04 Niacinamide
- 05 1,2-Hexanediol
- 06 Panthenol

Order below is under 1% and not ranked

- 07 Phenoxyethanol
- 08 Sodium Hyaluronate
- 09 Limonene
- 10 CI 77891

Declaration order

Labels list ingredients from most to least, down to 1%. Below 1% the order is free.

A preservative such as phenoxyethanol usually sits near that boundary, so the app draws the line there and calls it what it is: an estimate.

Position is an order, not a quantity. Nothing on a label says how much of anything is in the bottle.

Declaration order and the 1% line.

Cosmetic labels list ingredients in descending order of concentration down to 1%, after which the order is free. Where a label contains a marker that usually sits near that boundary, the app draws a line there, beneath the words “Order below is under 1% and not ranked”, and the note under the list says the line is an estimate. Position above the line is an order, not a quantity; nothing on a label says how much of anything is in the bottle.

9 How the app stays up to date



How a change reaches the app.

The reference ships inside the app, so it works from the first moment without a connection. Each time you open the app — and again when you come back to it after an hour or more away — it asks `skinrx.help` whether newer data exists. If it does, the changes arrive quietly in the background. There is nothing to tap. If the connection drops halfway, the app keeps what it had. The date of the data the app holds, and when it last checked, are shown under More → About, together with the build number.

10 Reporting an error

09:41

SkinRx

REPORT AN ERROR

Tell us what is wrong

Corrections are read by a person, not a queue. Being specific helps more than anything else.

WHAT SORT OF PROBLEM IS IT? **1**

What sort of problem is it? The ingredients list does not match my bottle >

WHAT IS WRONG?

For example: the label on my bottle lists Butylene Glycol second, not third. **2**

EMAIL, IF YOU WOULD LIKE A REPLY

Email, if you would like a reply **3**

Optional. Used only to reply about this report, and deleted when the report is closed.

Send the report **4**

If the ingredients list does not match your bottle, that is a

Search Scan Routine More

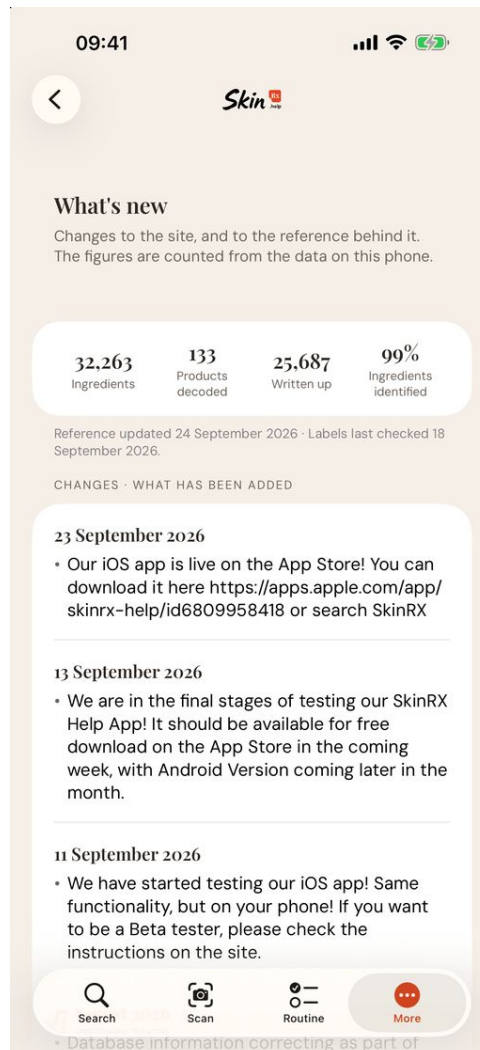
Report an error. Numbers refer to the key below.

- 1 What sort of problem it is — the five kinds.
- 2 What is wrong — write what you saw.
- 3 An email, only if you would like a reply.
- 4 Send the report.

Corrections are read by a person, and the most useful kind is “the ingredients list does not match my bottle”. Open the record concerned and tap the flag, or go to More → Report an error. An email address is optional and is used only to reply about that report, then deleted. A report written without a connection waits in the app and is sent when you are back online. Your reports, under More, lists every report you have written, and whether each one was sent, is waiting for a connection, or could not be sent. There is a limit of five reports a day from one phone.

11 What's new, About and Settings

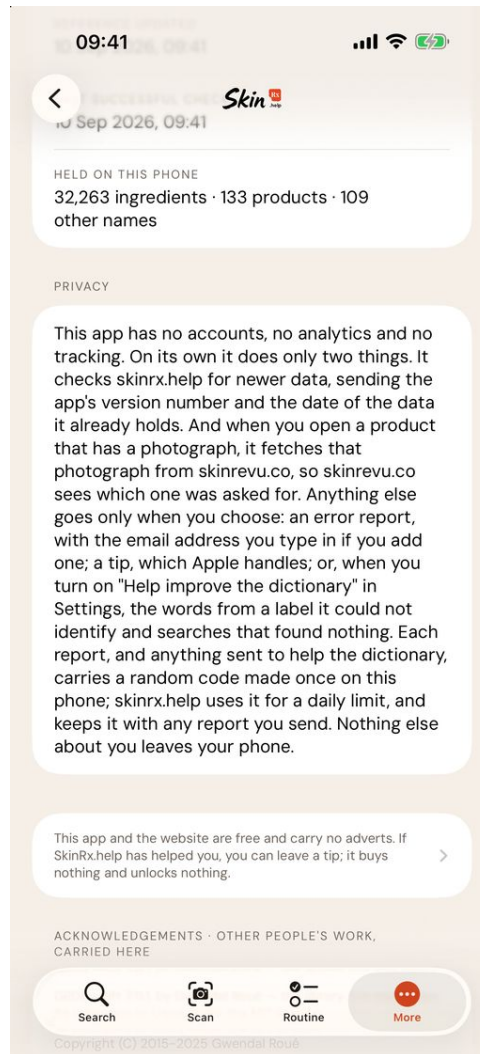
What's new



What's new: the figures for the data on your phone, and the notes beneath them.

Four figures for the data the app holds, and beneath them the notes from skinrx.help about what has changed and the reference month by month. The figures come from the data on your phone, so they are true offline.

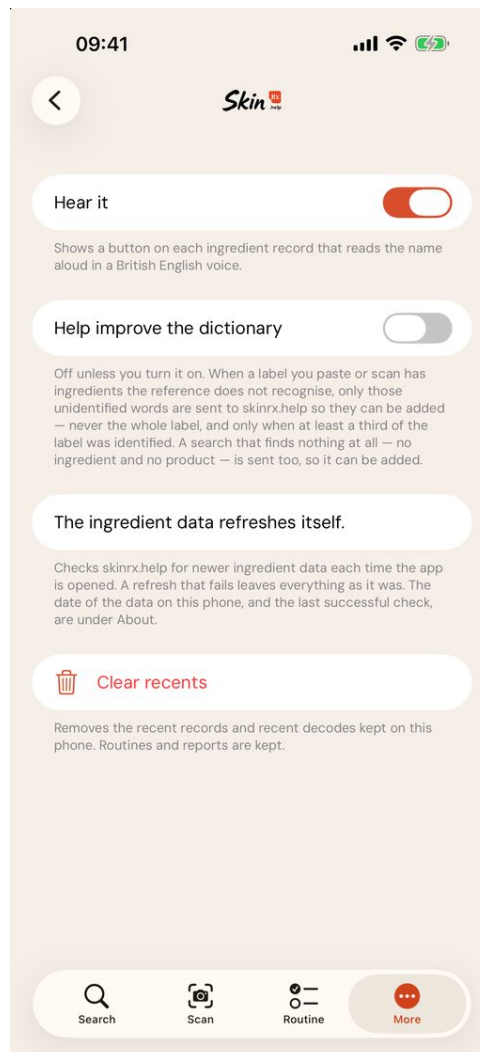
About



About, further down: what the phone holds, and the privacy statement. The build and data version are just above.

Where the data comes from and the limits of what it can say; the build number and data version; when the app last checked; the privacy statement; links to [skinrx.help](#) and the media kit; and, at the foot, acknowledgements: the GRDB library the app keeps its reference in, with its MIT licence in full, and the Playfair Display and DM Sans typefaces, used under the SIL Open Font Licence.

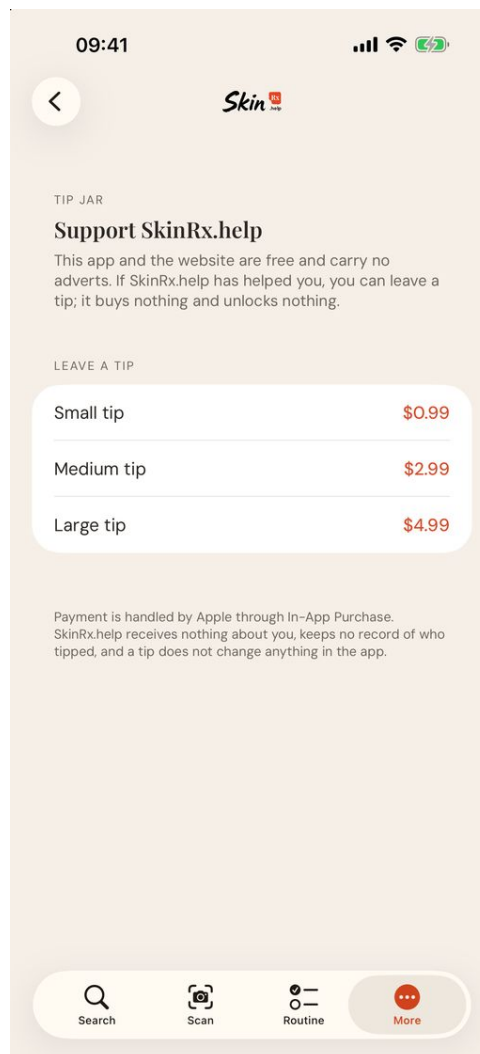
Settings



Settings.

Setting	What it does
Hear it	Turns the pronunciation button on ingredient records on or off.
Help improve the dictionary	Off unless you turn it on. When on, unidentified ingredient names from labels you decode are sent to skinrx.help so the reference can grow, but only when at least a third of the label was identified. Never the whole label. A search that finds nothing at all — no ingredient and no product — is sent too, once you stop typing or tap Search on the keyboard; a search that arrived in a link is never sent.
The ingredient data refreshes itself	Not a switch but a reminder: the app checks skinrx.help for newer data by itself, and a refresh that fails leaves everything as it was. The date of the data and the last successful check are under About.
Clear recents	Removes your recent lookups and decodes from the phone.

12 Supporting SkinRx.help



Support SkinRx.help: a voluntary tip that unlocks nothing.

The app and the website are free and carry no adverts. If SkinRx.help has helped you, More → Support SkinRx.help lets you leave a tip through Apple. A tip buys nothing and unlocks nothing; every part of the app is the same for everyone. Apple handles the payment; neither the app nor the website receives any details about you.

From the website. You can also leave a tip on the web at ko-fi.com/skinrxapp — the same voluntary support, from a browser rather than through the app. It changes nothing about what the app or the site does.

13 Privacy, in plain words

- The app has no accounts, no analytics and no tracking, and it never asks to track you.
- Search, decoding and routines happen on the phone, from data that ships inside the app and is refreshed from skinrx.help.
- On its own it does only two things: it checks skinrx.help for newer data, sending the app's version number and the date of the data already on the phone; and when you open a product that has a photograph, it fetches that photograph from skinrevu.co, so skinrevu.co sees which one was asked for.
- Anything else goes only when you choose: an error report, with an email address only if you type one; a tip, which Apple handles; or, with Help improve the dictionary turned on, the names a label could not identify and searches that found nothing.
- Each report, and anything sent to help the dictionary, carries a random code made once on the phone. skinrx.help uses it for a daily limit, and keeps it with any report you send. Nothing else about you leaves the phone.
- The camera is used to read a barcode or photograph a panel. Pictures are read on the phone and are not stored or sent anywhere.
- Your recents, routines and reports stay in the app's own storage on your phone. Deleting the app removes them.

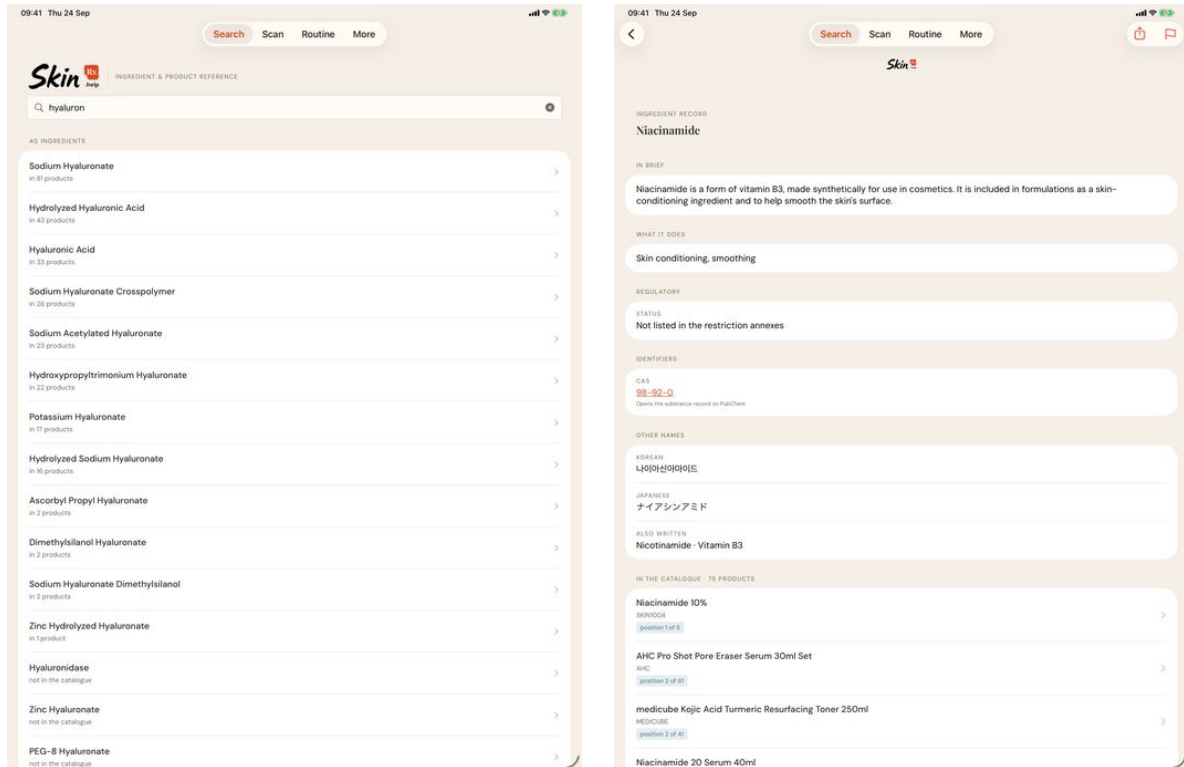
The full statement is at skinrx.help/app-privacy.php.

14 If something does not work

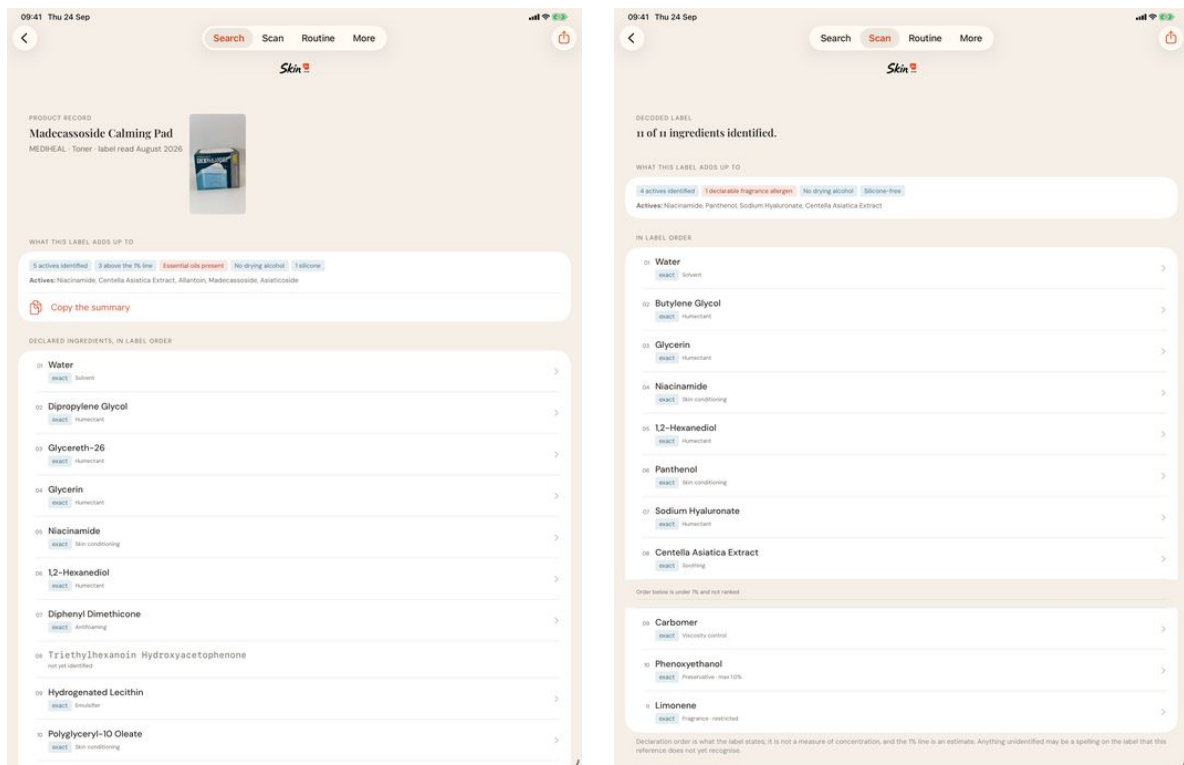
Problem	What to try
A label will not scan	Fill the frame with the panel, tap the text once to focus, hold the bottle still, and keep the panel flat to the camera. Correct the text before decoding, or paste the list instead.
A barcode is not found	The catalogue is small and growing. Scan the ingredients panel instead — the app reads the label itself.
A name shows as not identified	The reference does not have it yet. Report it, or turn on Help improve the dictionary, which sends the unidentified names to skinrx.help automatically whenever at least a third of the label was identified.
The data looks old	The app checks each time it is opened. Close it fully and open it again; the date of its data is under More → About.
A skinrx.help link opened in Safari	Only links to an ingredient, a product or a shared routine open in the app; other pages on skinrx.help open in Safari. For those links, the app needs to have been opened at least once after installation for them to be routed to it.
Anything else	Write to hi@skinrx.help and say which screen you were on. The build number and data version are under More → About; please include them.

15 On iPad

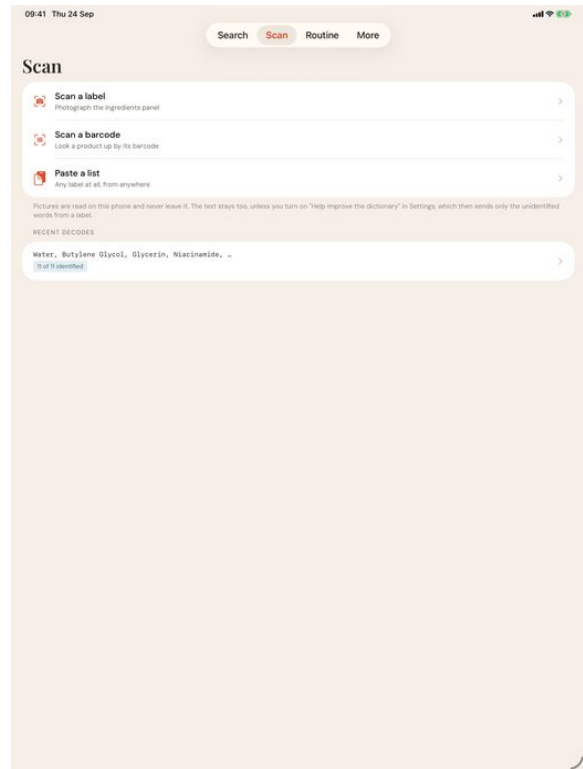
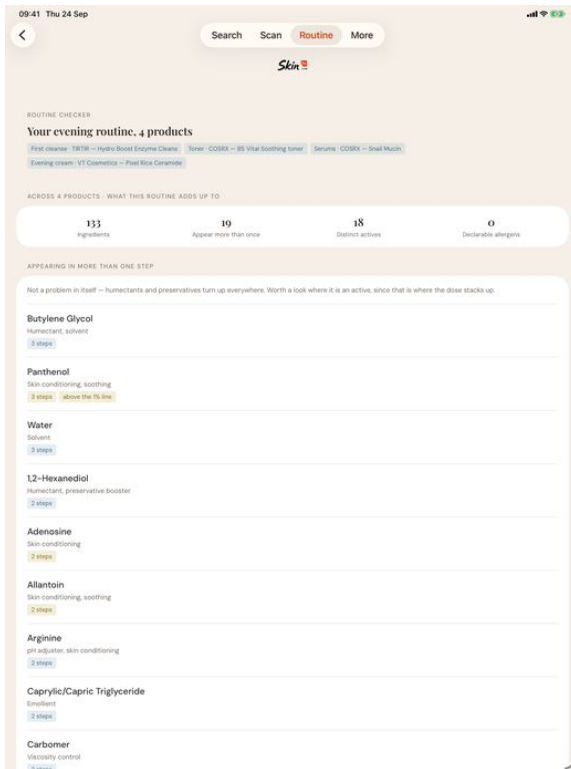
The same app, with more room. Every screen in this manual works identically on iPad; records and lists use the width, and the four tabs sit in a bar across the top of the screen rather than at the foot as on the phone.



Search and an ingredient record on the 13-inch iPad.



A product record and a decoded label.



A routine read, and the Scan tab.

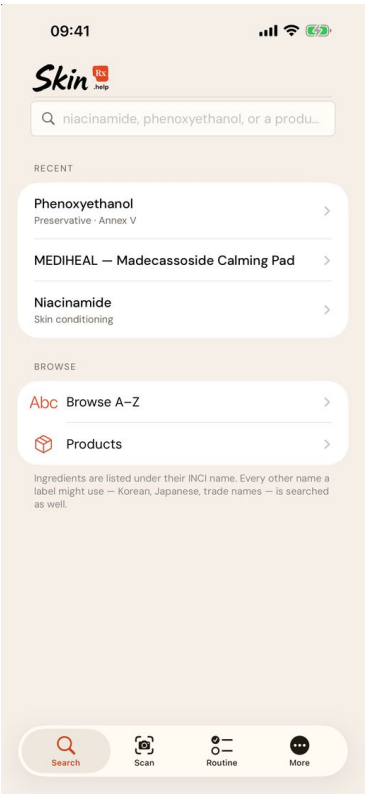
16 Larger text and VoiceOver

The app follows the text size set in iPhone Settings → Accessibility → Display & Text Size, up to the largest accessibility sizes; text wraps onto more lines and lists simply get longer. Every control has a spoken label for VoiceOver, and the badges are never told apart by colour alone — each carries its word. The Hear it button on an ingredient record reads the name aloud in a British English voice, using its pronunciation where one is recorded.

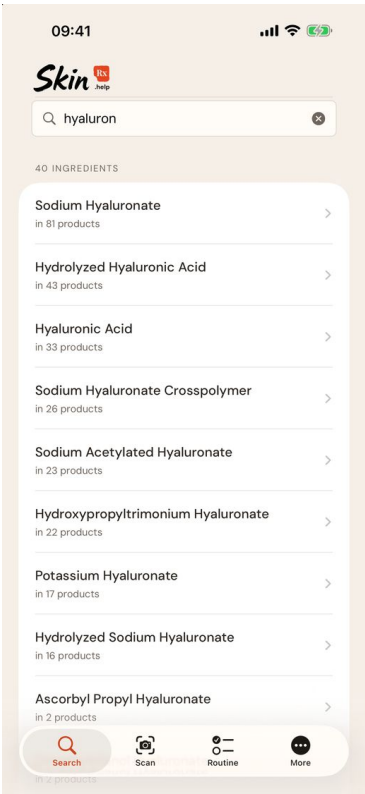
17 Glossary

Term	What it means here
INCI name	The International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients — the standard name for an ingredient on labels worldwide. INCI is a registered trademark of the Personal Care Products Council.
The glossary	The European Commission's list of common ingredient names, published under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/1175.
Annexes II to VI	The annexes to the EU Cosmetics Regulation: prohibited (II), restricted (III), and permitted as colorants (IV), preservatives (V) and UV filters (VI). UK divergence is noted where it exists.
CAS number	A registry number that identifies a chemical substance; tapping it opens the substance on PubChem.
Declaration order	The order on a label: from most to least, down to 1%; below 1% the order is free.
The 1% line	Where the app estimates that boundary from a marker such as a preservative, shown as a rule beneath the words “Order below is under 1% and not ranked”. An estimate, as the note beneath the list says.
May contain	Colourants a manufacturer lists as possible rather than certain, usually for shades of one product.
Declarable fragrance allergens	Fragrance substances the Regulation requires to be named on the label above a threshold; the app counts those it finds.
Actives	Ingredients with a recognised functional effect — niacinamide, retinoids, exfoliating acids. The app lists those present; it does not judge them.
Drying alcohol	Ethanol, denatured alcohol and isopropyl alcohol, as distinct from fatty alcohols such as cetyl alcohol, which are emollients. The app tells them apart.
Other name	A synonym, trade name, translation or learned spelling the reference maps to an INCI name.
Data version and build	Shown under About: the date of the reference data the app holds, and the app's own build number. Include both when reporting a problem.

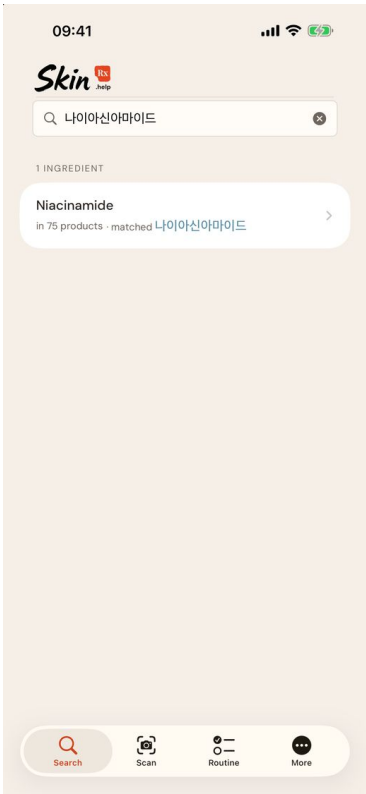
Appendix Every screen at a glance



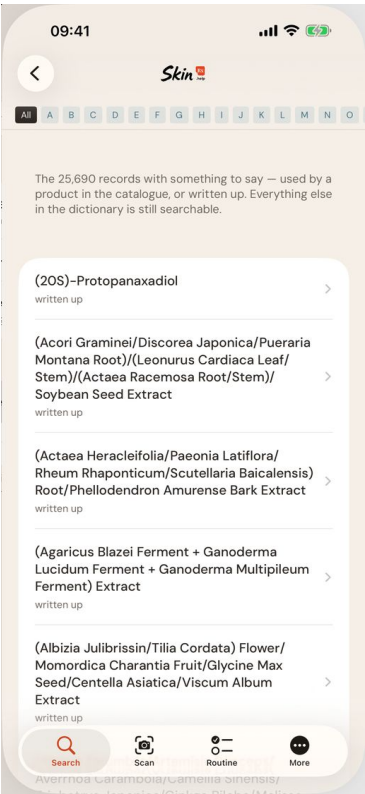
Search



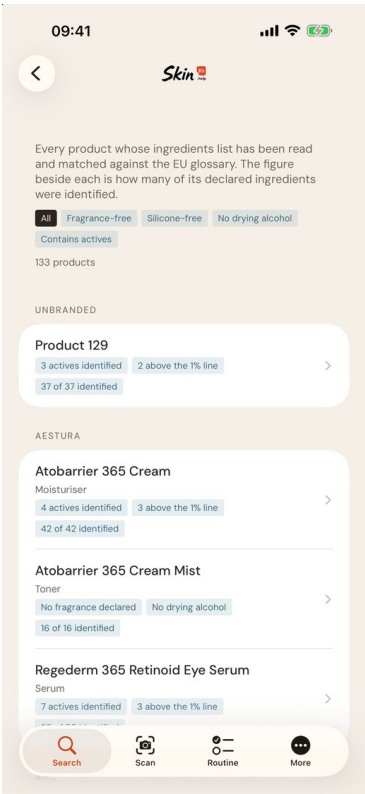
Search results



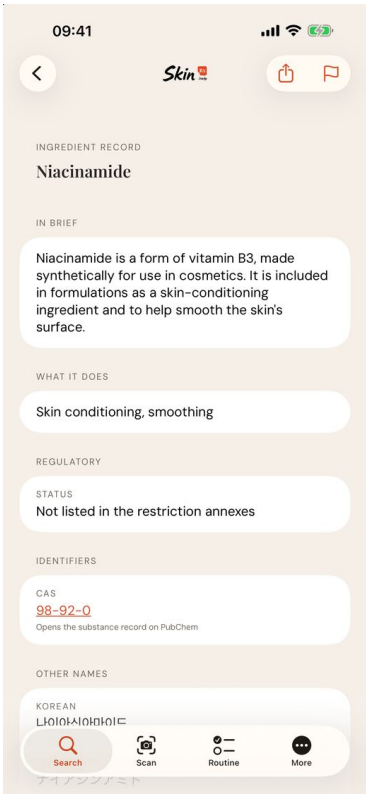
A Korean name



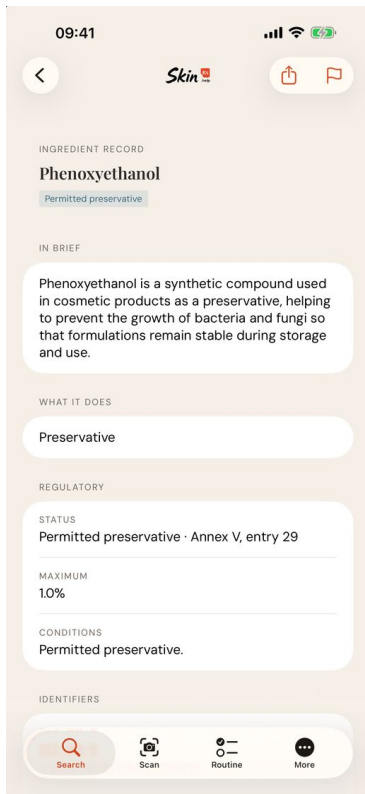
Browse A-Z



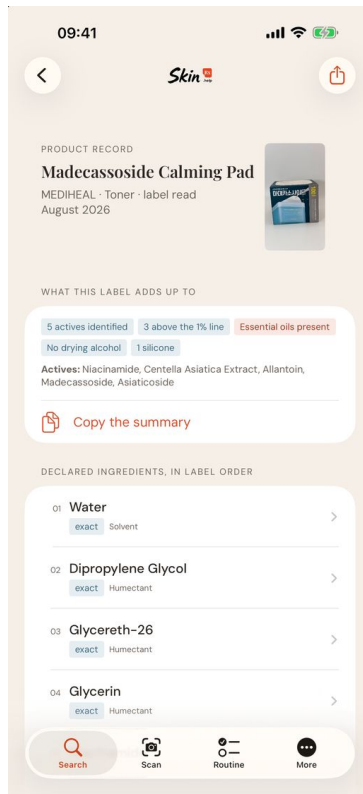
Products



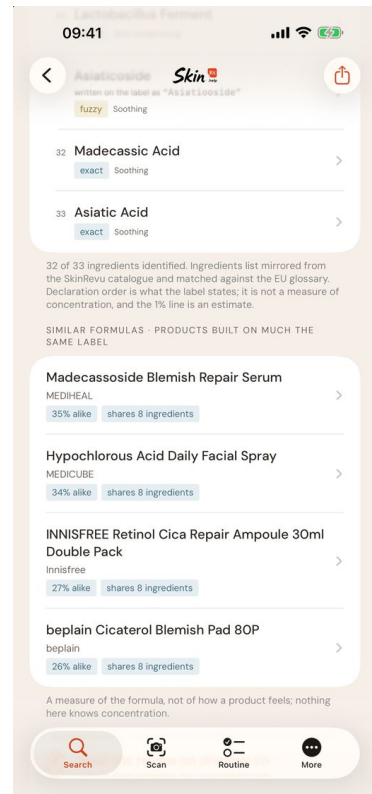
Ingredient record



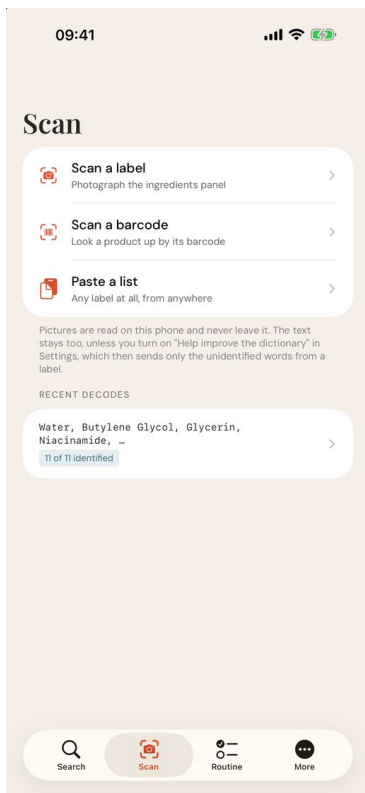
A substance the annexes list



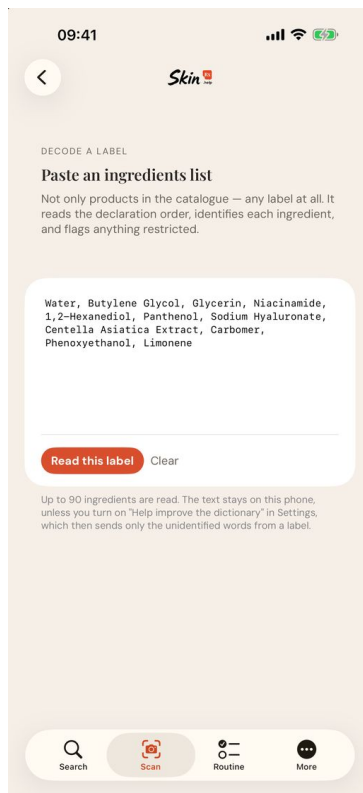
Product record



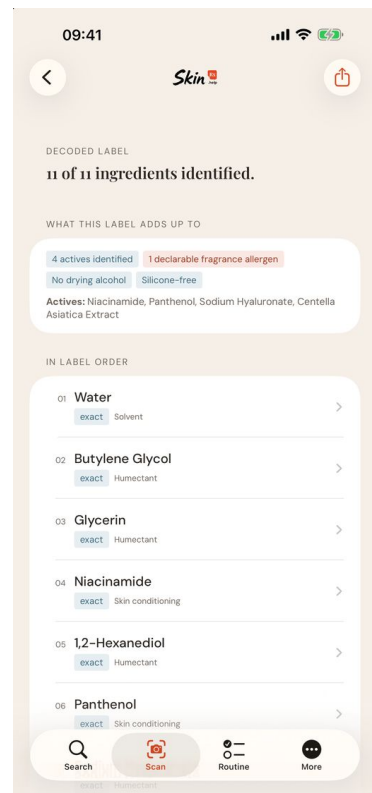
Similar formulas



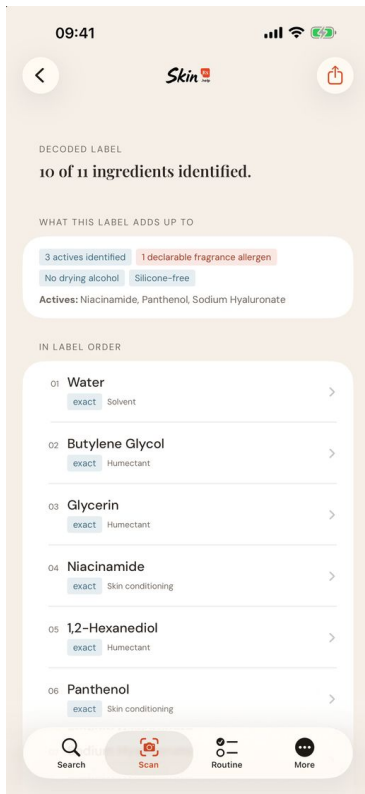
Scan



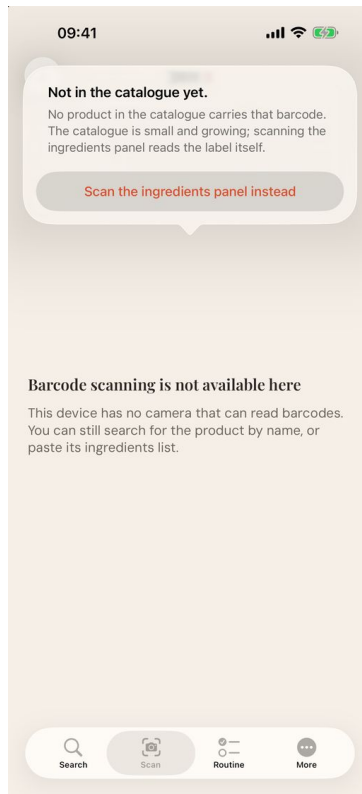
Paste a list



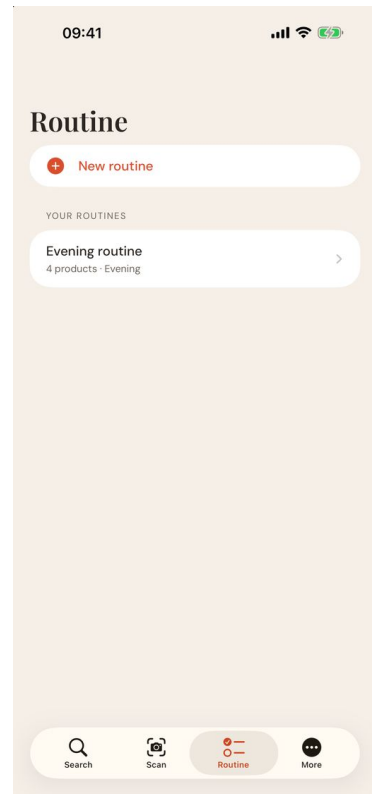
Decoded label



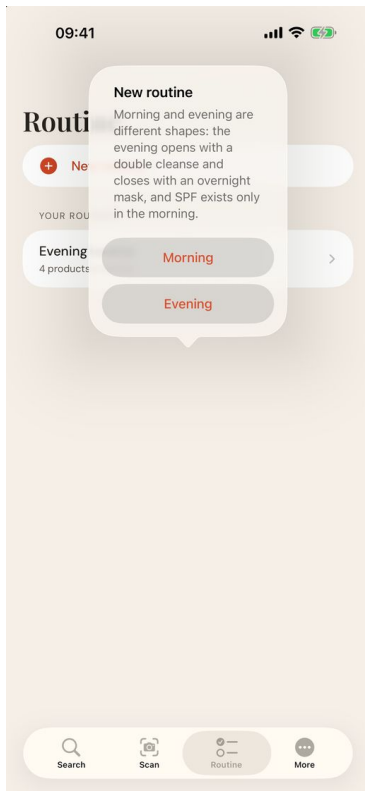
Names not identified



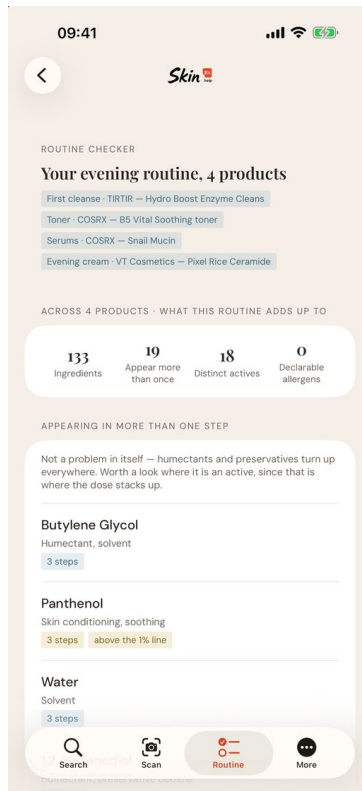
Barcode not found



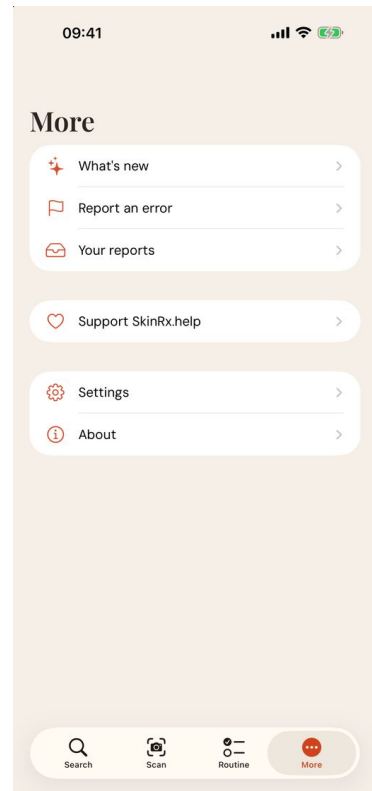
Routine



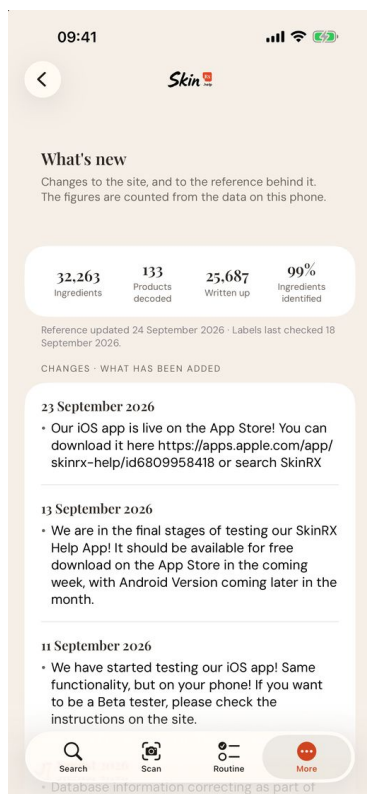
New routine



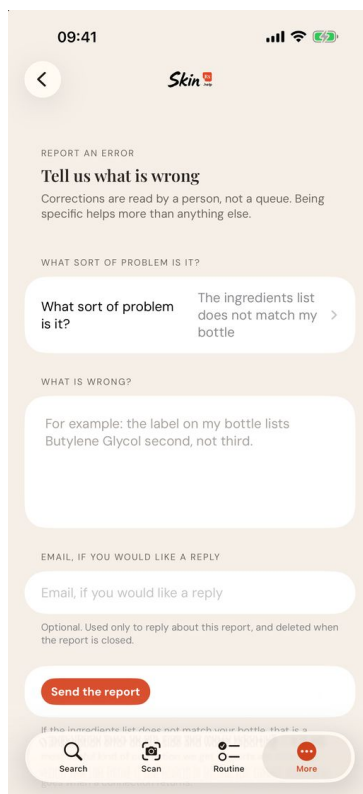
Reading a routine



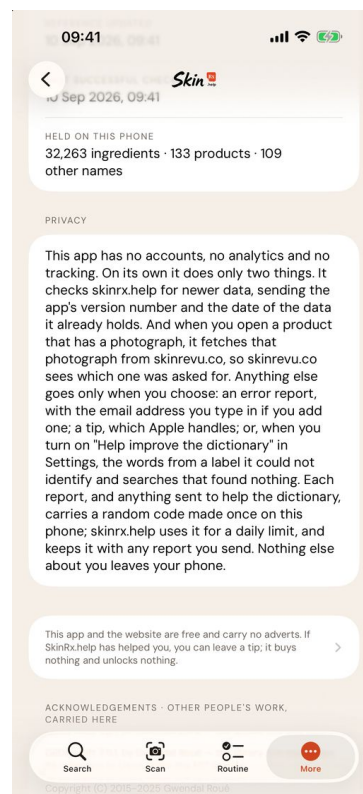
More



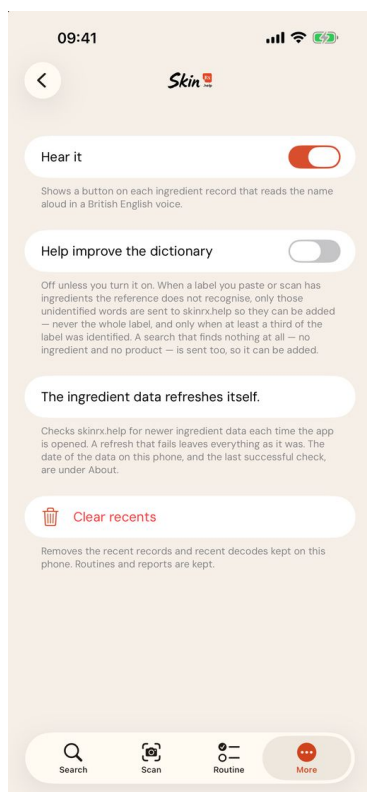
What's new



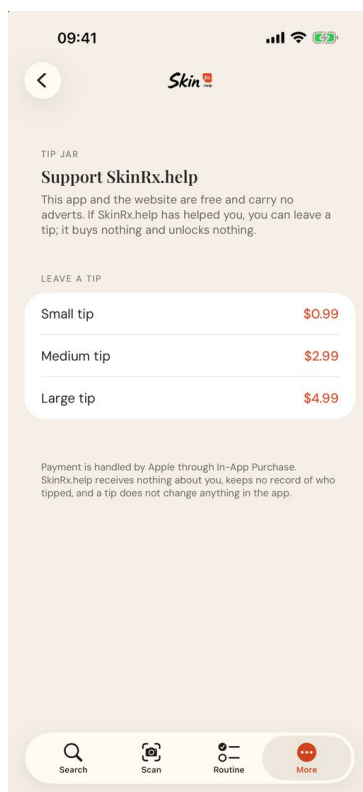
Report an error



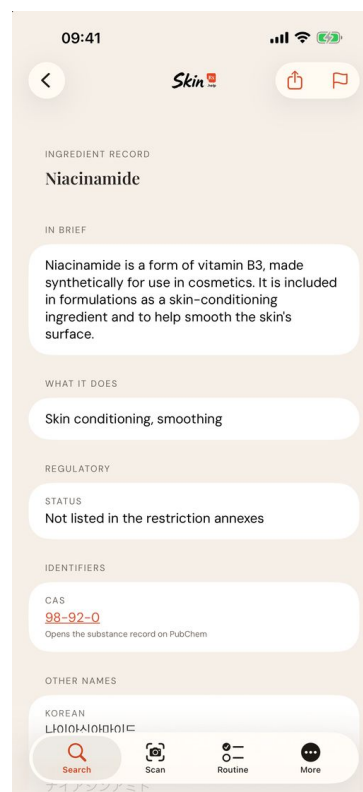
About



Settings



Support SkinRx.help



The logo on an inner screen