

**Methylisothiazolinone**

**What are the aims of the leaflet?**

This leaflet has been written to help you understand more about your contact allergy. It tells you what a contact allergy is, what causes this allergy and what you can do about it.

**What is contact allergy?**

Dermatitis, also known as eczema, describes a type of inflammation of the skin.

Contact dermatitis or contact eczema is a term used when this inflammation is caused by direct or indirect skin contact with something in your environment.

Allergic contact dermatitis occurs when your immune system causes allergy to a very specific chemical or substance that has been in contact with the skin.

**What causes your specific allergy?**

Your patch tests indicate you have a contact allergy to **METHYLISOTHIAZOLINONE** (2-Methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one). Other names include Kathon, Euxyl K 100 and Grotan K.

Methylisothiazolinone is a preservative which was **banned from leave on cosmetic products in 2017 and restricted to low levels in wash off cosmetic products in the EU.**

Products which may contain these, which you should look carefully at the ingredients of include:

Cosmetics

* Soap
* Moist toilet papers, wet wipes or baby wipes
* Shampoos and conditioners
* Hair products
* Skin cream and body lotions
* Bubble bath and shower gel
* Mouthwashes
* Sunscreens

Household products

* Detergents and washing up liquid
* Fabric softener
* Ironing water
* Glues
* Children’s slime and putty toys
* Polishes and wood stains
* Water-colours and household paints. Note: paint fumes can cause problems in freshly painted rooms and methylisothiazolinone may not be labelled on the tin

Industrial products

* Car polish and windscreen products
* Glues and adhesives
* Cutting oils and coolants
* Biocides

**REMEMBER, always check the label.**

**How can I manage my allergy?**

This means that you should avoid putting products containing methylisothiazolinone onto your skin in the future. You should also avoid methylchloroisothiazolinone. You may also need to avoid octylisothiazolinone containing products.

**Self-care (what can I do?)**

Always check the ingredient listing on the product, package or package insert as these lists can never be complete and ingredients change. This is particularly important for any products purchased outside the EU where methylisothiazolinone may not be banned.

**Where can I get more information about my contact allergy?**

[www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/a-z-conditions-treatment](http://www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/a-z-conditions-treatment)

BSCA 2024