

Environmental Working Group's

shopper's guide to safe cosmetics



INGREDIENTS TO AVOID

- DMDM hydantoin and Iridazolidinyl urea toxic contaminants
- Fragrance and dyes allergies, cancer, nervous system
- Methylchloroisothiazolinone and Methylisothiazolinone allergies, nervous system
- Parabens or "-paraben" hormone effects

- "PEG" and "-eth" toxic contaminants
- Sodium lauryl or laureth sulfate skin damage, toxic contaminants
- Triclosan and triclocarban thyroid and environmental concerns
- Triethanolamine (TEA) allergies, toxic contaminants

For more information on this list, visit cosmeticsdatabase.com

With no required safety testing, cosmetics

companies can use almost any chemical they want, regardless of risks. Read labels before you buy.

PRODUCTS TO AVOID

- Anti-aging creams with lactic, glycolic, AHA, and BHA acids
- Hair dyes with ammonia, peroxide, p-phe-nylenediamine, diaminobenzene; all dark, permanent hair dyes
- Liquid hand soaps with triclosan
- Nail polish and removers with formaldehyde
- Skin lighteners with hydroquinone

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Safer shopping tips

- Use fewer, simpler products.
- Don't trust claims like "dermatologist-tested," "natural," or "organic." Read the ingredient label instead.
- Take label warnings seriously. They indicate hazardous chemicals.
- Look up your products' reviews at EWG's cosmeticsdatabase.com.

SUNSCREENS

- Stay in the shade from 10 am to 4 pm
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, & protective clothing
- Use SPF 30 or higher
- Avoid sprays and the ingredient oxybenzone
- Use 7% or higher zinc oxide or titanium dioxide
- Avoid added bug repellent

CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS

- Avoid boric acid and sodium borate in diaper cream
- Avoid 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol in baby wipes
- Avoid toothpaste with fluoride for children under 2
- Avoid play makeup like lipstick, perfume, and nail polish

More tips and product reviews at cosmeticsdatabase.com

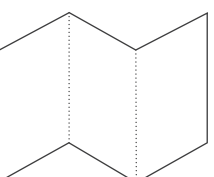
- **Subscribe to EWG's newsletter.** Sign up at ewg.org/signup
- **Support the Kid-Safe Chemicals Act.** Learn more at ewg.org/kidsafe



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Make your own safe cosmetics guide

1. Cut along dotted line.
2. Fold guide in half down the middle.
3. Fold guide into thirds, like an accordion, to make it pocket-sized.



fold guide into thirds at these two points



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