

## **Patient Information**

### **Chromium Salts**

**Your TRUE TEST<sup>®</sup> indicates that you have a contact allergy to potassium dichromate.**

Chromium salts or chromates in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

Potassium dichromate is a chromium salt or chromate and is a common metal making up a significant part of the earth's crust.

#### **Where are chromium salts found?**

The most common home exposure of chromate is leather. The majority of leather goods, including shoes and gloves are tanned with chromates.

Chromium salts are occasionally found in detergents, shoe polishes, ashes, safety matches and military green dyes used in felt and textiles.

Chromium salts may be present in make up and in green tattoo dye.

Chromium salts are found in many industrial materials such as cement, mortar, plaster, drywall and bricks.

Exposure may occur from chromium plating, engraving and printing chemicals, rust proofing primers, pigment in paint, inks, wood preservatives, lithography fixatives, chrome glues, adhesives, photographic chemicals, welding galvanized, chrome-plated metal and stainless steel. Cutting fluids and oils can be contaminated with chromium salts. Corrosion inhibitors and preservatives in cutting oils may contain chromium salts.



Internal exposure to chromium from orthopedic and dental implants, pacemaker wires do seldom involve a risk. Vitamin supplements and the medication of chromium picolinate have been reported to worsen eczema.

Metallic chromium present in chrome steel and stainless steel is insoluble and involves no risk of dermatitis.

## **How to avoid chromium salts**

Avoid chromate tanned leather gloves and shoes. Use instead vegetable tanned leather shoes or plastic shoes. For those with shoe dermatitis from chromate and leather, wearing heavy socks and reducing perspiration and moisture may help to reduce dermatitis.

Do not handle burnt matches or ash. Use a lighter instead.

In the workplace, avoid wet cement and mortar. Even the dust or fumes from chromate-containing products should be avoided. Chromate reduced cement added ferrous sulfate is an alternative. Change oils and cutting fluids often in machine work. If you suspect that you are being exposed to this allergen at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to chromium salts.

**What to look for**

***Synonyms for chromium salts***

- Chromate
- Chromite
- Chromium compounds
- Chromium salts
- Potassium Dichromate

*The list may not be complete.*

When purchasing products which may come in contact with your skin, check the list of ingredients for any of the names listed above. If in doubt contact your pharmacist or physician.

*This information does not substitute the information given by your health care providers and can only be seen as a supplement.*