

Patient Information

Wool Alcohols

Your TRUE TEST® indicates that you have a contact allergy to wool alcohols.

Wool alcohols in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

Wool alcohols are constituents of wool fat also known as lanolin, a product obtained from the fleece of sheep.

Where are wool alcohols found?

Wool alcohols are found in many cosmetics such as ointments, moisturizers, creams, lotions, soaps, facial masks, sunscreens and in topical pharmaceutical products available over-the-counter or by prescription. They can be found in foundation, powder, makeup remover, eye makeup, lipstick and nail enamel remover. They may be present in baby oil, diaper lotion, hair spray, hemorrhoid preparation, home permanent, shampoo, shaving cream, adhesive plaster and veterinary products.

They are also found as ingredients in technical products in e.g. printing inks, furniture and shoe polishes, impregnating agents for textile, leather goods and furs, ski wax and other waxes, lubricants and as anticorrosives in cutting fluids and insulation for wiring.

How to avoid wool alcohols

Use only ingredient-labeled cosmetics, toiletries and medicines that do not list wool alcohols or lanolin or any of their synonyms on the label. Avoid products that do not list all ingredients. Your pharmacist should know which products contain wool alcohol or lanolin and can recommend wool alcohol free skin care alternatives.

Wool alcohol-sensitive individuals may be able to tolerate some lanolins and not others since lanolin varies depending upon its source and manufacture.

Wearing wool clothing is generally not a problem.

If you suspect that you are being exposed to wool alcohol/lanolin at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to wool alcohol/lanolin and ask that they use products that are free of these allergens.

What to look for

Synonyms for wool alcohols and modifications

- Adeps lanae anhydrous
- Aloholes lanae
- Amerchol
- Anhydrous lanolin
- Wool fat
- Wool grease
- Wool wax
- Lanolin
- Lanolin acid
- Lanolin alcohol
- Lanolin wax

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.