

Patient Information

Mercaptobenzothiazole

Your TRUE TEST® indicates that you have a contact allergy to mercaptobenzothiazole (MBT).

Mercaptobenzothiazole (MBT) in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

MBT is an additive used as an accelerator in the manufacture of both natural and synthetic rubber.

Where is mercaptobenzothiazole found?

MBT is found widely in a variety of rubber articles in the modern environment both at home and at work. Examples of such articles are rubber tires and tubes for your car, rubber boots and shoes, rubber soles, gloves, garden hoses, elastic and rubberized clothing such as brassieres, girdles, support stockings, swimwear, swim caps and elastic bands as well as in rubber pillows, sponge makeup applicators, toys, balloons, baby bottle nippers, latex condoms, examination and surgical gloves, dental dams and rubber handles on tools such as tennis racquets and golf club handles.

Industrially it is found in rubber products such as the lining for fuel tanks, caulking, electrical cords, plugs, gas masks, safety goggles, conveyor belts, shock absorbers, springs, mats, aprons, earphones, stethoscopes, rubber bands, erasers, rubber sheeting, non-slip waistbands, mattresses and anti-slip carpet backing.

MBT is also found in glue for leather and plastic, cutting oils, antifreeze, greases, anticorrosive agents, detergents, cements and adhesives, fungicides, veterinary tick and flea sprays and powders and film emulsions.

How to avoid mercaptobenzothiazole

Minimize your exposure to all rubber products at home, in your car and at work. Substitute products made of vinyl, plastic, leather, wood or fabric for rubber products.

Avoid rubber boots and rubber shoes, such as sneakers and tennis shoes, and insoles. Wear solid leather shoes with no inner or outer soles like moccasins. If in doubt wear new shoes for a few days and watch for a rash. Try insoles free of MBT chemicals to see if using insoles makes dress shoes wearable for you.

Beware of socks and stockings worn with shoes containing MBT chemicals as they can contaminate and does not wash out.

Avoid rubber bands, elastic, rubber gloves, electrical cords, tires, rubber matting and rubber sporting equipment. Be suspicious of any product containing rubber that seems to cause a rash where it touches your body.

Some rubber gloves are labeled "hypoallergenic and rubber free." Even so, call the manufacturer to determine whether they contain MBT, because also in synthetic products MBT may be used as accelerators. Examples of gloves made of a synthetic co-polymer usually free from MBT are styrene, butadiene, vinyl gloves or nitrile gloves. Articles made with polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate or silicone are also suitable alternatives.

Avoid contact with pet and veterinary products containing MBT related compounds.

If you suspect that you are being exposed to this allergen at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets. Wear protective clothing (aprons, gauntlets, and appropriate gloves) when handling rubber hoses, seals, cables, etc.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to MBT chemicals and ask that they use gloves that are free of these allergens.

What to look for

Synonyms for mercaptobenzothiazole

- 2-Benzathiazaethiol
- MBT

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.