

Patient Information

Quaternium-15

Your TRUE TEST® indicates that you have a contact allergy to quaternium-15 (Q-15).

Quaternium-15 (Q-15) in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

Q-15 is a formaldehyde releasing preservative used in personal care products usually cosmetics. It is also used as a biocide in household and industrial products.

Where is quaternium-15 found?

Q-15 is found in many cosmetics, shampoos and skin care products, as well as in household and industrial products. Examples of cosmetic products and toiletries are lotions, creams, moisturizers, emollients, foundations, powders, concealers, bronzers, self-tanners, makeup removers, blushes, eye shadows, eyeliners, eyebrow makeup and mascaras and sunscreens as well as shampoos, soaps etc.

Adhesives, paper, paperboard, inks, polishes and latex paints may contain Q-15.

Industrial cutting fluid may contain Q-15 as a preservative.

How to avoid quaternium-15

Use only ingredient-labeled cosmetics and skin care products that do not list Q-15 or any of its synonyms on the label.

Preparations that are left on the skin for an extended period of time, for example day or night cream are most likely to cause an allergic reaction. Shampoos and soaps incur a lower risk.

Avoid products that have biocides and preservatives that are related to formaldehyde releasers such as diazolidinyl urea, imidazolodiny urea and DMDM Hydantoin.

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 Q-15.

What to look for

Synonyms for quaternium-15

- Quaternium-15 (INCI Name)
- Azonium-adamantane chloride
- Chloroallyl methanamine chloride
- N-(3-chloroallyl)-Hexaminium chloride cis-1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azonia-adamantane chloride
- 1-(3-Chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azonia-adamantane chloride
- Methanamine-3-chloroallylochloride

Formaldehyde-releasing preservatives to which you may react

- Bronopol™ (2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol)
- Tris Nitro® [tris (hydroxymethyl) nitromethane]
- Formaldehyde
- Germall® 115 (imidazolidinyl urea)
- Germall® II (diazolidinyl urea)
- Glydant® [DMDM (dimethylolmethyl) hydantoin]

The lists 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.