

Your TRUE TEST results indicate that you have a contact allergy to epoxy resin. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance, although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching and fluid-filled blisters.

Epoxy resins are found in two-component adhesives, coatings, paints and composite materials with a curing agent. These epoxy resins are commonly found in industry and at home.

WHERE IS EPOXY RESIN FOUND?

At work, you may find epoxy resin in and around:

- Production of molds, dies and models
- Two-component paints and adhesives
- Electron microscopy embedding media
- Art and sculpture materials
- Manufacture of epoxy composite products such as tennis racquets, skis and circuit boards
- Lightweight equipment and rotor production
- Flooring, floor sealers and coatings
- Protective finishes, coverings and coatings
- Dental restoratives and epoxies

The most common epoxy exposure is from 2-component adhesive. Epoxy resin is also found in adhesive tapes, surface coatings, paints, putties and inks. It may be found in encapsulation of electrical parts and in some dental bonding agents.

Epoxy can be added to other plastic materials (e.g. some vinyl plastic products such as eyeglass frames, vinyl gloves, handbags and plastic necklaces).

In industry, epoxy resin is used for product finishes and repairs such as floor, wall, road and bridge coatings; appliance finishes; automotive primers; and flame-retardants. Skin reactions may occur from exposure to varnishes, laminates, paints, tool handlers, die-castings, or model-making as well as to materials used by artists and sculptors.

Note: Only resin and hardener, the two components of uncured epoxy, are allergenic. Cured (hardened plastic) is seldom a problem.

At home, you may find epoxy resin in and around:

- Two-component paints, glues and adhesives
- Model and mold construction
- Flooring, floor sealers and coatings
- Protective finishes, coverings and surface coatings
- Art and sculpture materials
- Fiberglass repair

HOW CAN YOU AVOID EPOXY RESIN?

- Do not touch or handle uncured epoxy resin and avoid breathing fumes. Only use products that do not list epoxy resin or related chemicals on the label, ingredient list or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). If no information is available, contact the product manufacturer.
- Tell your physician, pharmacist and dentist that you are allergic to epoxy resin. Ask for products that do not contain epoxy resin or related substances.
- If you must work with epoxy resin, use Silvershield[®]/4H[®] glove protective gloves that are chemically resistant. For hobby and detail work, use tools rather than bare hands when working with epoxy resin.
- If you think that you contact epoxy resin at work, ask your employer for a MSDS or manufacturer information on the product(s). Talk to your employer about using a different product or about wearing chemically resistant protective gloves and clothing.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR AND AVOID?*

Avoid products with the following names in the list of ingredients, MSDS, or package insert.

- Epoxy resin or diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A
- Diglycidyl bisphenol a
- Diomethane diglycidyl ether
- Diglycidyl diphenylpropane ether
- 2,2-bis(4-glycidylphenoxy)propane
- Araldite[®]
- 4,4'-Isopropylidenediphenol diglycidyl ether
- DGEBA epoxy resin
- Epichlorohydrin
- 4,4'-Isopropylidenediphenol-epichlorohydrin

You also may react to substances related to bisphenol A based epoxy resins such as:

- Bisphenol A-glycidyl methacrylate
- Epoxy resins with diglycidyl ethers of bisphenol F
- Tosylamide epoxy resin

*These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. Product formulations may change from time to time without notice. Talk to your doctor for specific instructions. For additional information about products that might contain **epoxy resin** or a related substance, go to the Household Products Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine.