

Your TRUE TEST results indicate that you have a contact allergy to quaternium-15. 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.

Quaternium-15 is commonly used in personal care products such as cosmetics, soaps and shampoos. It belongs to a group of preservatives known as formaldehyde-releasing agents.

### WHERE IS QUATERNIUM-15 FOUND?

#### **At work, you may find quaternium-15 or formaldehyde-releasing agents in:**

- Urea-formaldehyde foam insulation
- Electrode attachment gels used in healthcare
- Embalming and preserving fluids
- Pressed wood such as particleboard, medium density fiberboard, plywood, and oriented strandboard
- Urea-formaldehyde resins
- Metal-working fluids and coolants
- Glues, inks, toners and paints
- Cleaning products, waxes and polishes

#### **At home, you may find quaternium-15 or formaldehyde-releasing agents in:**

- Cosmetics such as foundations and powders, blush, mascaras, eye shadows, eyeliners and pencils
- Durable press (wrinkle-resistant) fabrics
- Cleaning products, waxes, polishes and paints
- Tobacco and cigarette smoke
- Skin care products such as creams, lotions and moisturizers
- Personal hygiene items such as soaps, cleansers and shampoos
- Smoke from wood, coal, kerosene or charcoal fires

### HOW CAN YOU AVOID QUATERNIUM-15?

- Do not use products with quaternium-15 on your face, hair or body. Only use products that do not list quaternium-15 on the label, ingredient list or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). It may be wise to avoid products that contain other formaldehyde-releasing agents.
- Tell your physician, pharmacist, dentist, veterinarian, beautician and hairdresser that you are allergic to quaternium-15. Ask for preparations that do not contain quaternium-15 or other formaldehyde-releasing agents.
- If you must use products with quaternium-15 at work on your children or pets, wear protective gloves. Heavy-duty gloves made of natural or synthetic rubber or vinyl are good for working with products that contain quaternium-15.
- If you think that you contact quaternium-15 at work, ask your employer for MSDS or manufacturer information on the product(s). Talk to your employer about using a different product or about wearing protective gloves and clothing.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR AND AVOID?\*

Products that include other quaternium substances are safe to use, but avoid products with the following names in the list of ingredients, MSDS or package insert.

- Quaternium-15 or chloroallyl methenamine chloride
- Hexamethylenetetramine chloroallyl chloride
- 3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane, 1-(3-chloroallyl)-, chloride; N-(3-chloroallyl) hexaminium chloride

You also may react to other formaldehyde-releasing agents such as:

- Formaldehyde or formalin; formic aldehyde; oxymethylene
- Bronopol or 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol
- Diazolidinyl urea or N,N'-bis(hydroxymethyl) urea; 1-(1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioximidazolidin-4-yl)-1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)urea
- DMDM hydantoin or 1,3-cimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin; 1,3-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethylimidazolidine-2,4-dione
- Imidazolidinyl urea or imidurea; or N,N"-methylenebis(N'-(3-(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioxo-4-imidazolidinyl)urea
- Tris nitro or trimethylolnitromethane; 2-nitro-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol; tris(hydroxymethyl)nitromethane; nitroisobutylglycerol

\*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 **quaternium-15** or a related substance, go to the Household Products Database online ([householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov](http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov)) at the United States National Library of Medicine.