

NA24: Colophony

CAS#: 8050-09-7

Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to colophony. 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.

Where is colophony found?

Colophony comes from the sap of coniferous trees such as pines, junipers, firs, and cedars. Colophony (or rosin) is found in personal care and beauty products, topical medications, surface coatings, lubricants, adhesives and sealants, as well as the rosin for string instruments and dancers' shoes. Another potential source of exposure to colophony is diapers and feminine hygiene products. Colophony derivatives are also found in shoe adhesives, particularly as a tackifier in the rubber cements that are used for sole attachment or for attaching layers below the insole.

How can you avoid contact with colophony?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- Colophony
- Abietyl alcohol
- Disproportionated rosin
- Rosin gum
- Wood or pine rosin
- Abietic acid
- Abietic alcohol
- Methyl abietate alcohol
- Colophonium
- Rosin
- Tall oil

What are some products that may contain colophony?

- Asphalt
- Coated Papers
- Cosmetics:
 - Blush
 - Lip balm
 - Mascara
- Dental Products:
 - Dental cements
 - Impression pastes
- Diapers/Feminine Napkins
- Furniture Polishes and Waxes
- Glues/Adhesives
- Hydrocolloid Dressings
- Industrial Greases/Oils/Solvents
- Lacquers and Varnishes
- Linoleum
- Paints and Stains
- Pine-Oil Cleaners
- Printing Inks
- Rosins:
 - For dancers' shoes
 - For violin, viola and cello
- Soldering Materials
- Stamps
- Tapes
- Topical Medications:
 - Acne treatment cream
 - Antiseptic salve
- Waterproofing Materials
- Wax Depilatories
- Waxed Threads
- Wood and Sawdust
- Wood Fillers
- Yellow Laundry Bar Soap

- Eyeshadows
- Lipsticks
- Powder foundation
- Fluoride varnishes
- Periodontal dressings

*For additional information about products that might contain **colophony**, go to the Household Product Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.