



the art and science of smart patch testing™

NA94: Formaldehyde

Patient Information

Your patch test results indicate that you have a contact allergy to formaldehyde. 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 formaldehyde found?

Formaldehyde is used as a preservative and disinfectant in many industrial and household products. It is also used to finish durable press fabrics.

Formaldehyde has been replaced by other chemicals in skin and hair care products. These chemicals are known as *formaldehyde releasers*. It also may be prudent to avoid these chemicals based on your physician's advice:

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|---|--|
| ■ Quaternium-15 | ■ Diazolidinyl urea (Germall® II) |
| ■ DMDM hydantoin (Glydant) | ■ Imidazolidinyl urea (Germall®) |
| ■ 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol (Bronopol™) | ■ Tris nitromethane (Tris Nitro)(industrial biocide) |

How can you avoid contact with formaldehyde?

Avoid products that list the following in the ingredients:

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Formaldehyde | ■ Formalin |
| ■ Formic aldehyde | ■ Methaldehyde |
| ■ Methyl aldehyde | ■ Methylene oxide |
| ■ Methanal | ■ Oxymethylene |

What are some products that may contain formaldehyde?

Baby Products

Cosmetics

Fabrics

Foods

Gum and Mints

Household Products

Personal Care Products

Pet Care

Shampoos and Conditioners

*For additional information about products that might contain **formaldehyde**, go to the Household Product Database online (<http://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.