



## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: Wool alcohols

**Your patch test shows that you have a contact allergy to :** wool alcohols

**Synonym(s):** wool wax, wool grease, wool alcohol, lanolin, lanolin acid, lanolin alcohol, anhydrous, adeps lanae, amerchol L101, amerchol CAB, anhydrous lanolin, aquaphor, eucerine.

**Definition:** Wool alcohol is a component of wool wax and is a natural product that is derived from sheep's wool. It is a soft, yellow, waxy substance that is secreted by the sebaceous glands of sheep. The purpose of wool wax is to waterproof and protect the wool. Chemically, wool wax is a complex mixture of esters, fatty acids, and alcohols

### **Use and occurrence:**

- Wool alcohols and derivatives are often found in
  - topically applied pharmaceuticals such as lotions and ointments, for example in the treatment of leg ulcers and stasis eczema and in creams like lanette, cetomacrogol and oculentum simplex.
  - In leave-on skin products such as cosmetics, creams, cleansing products and bug spray.
  - Rinse-off skin and hair products like shampoo, shaving foam and other hair removing products
- other products that can also contain wool alcohols are impregnating agents such as shoe polish, printing ink, furniture polish, technical liquids, ski wax, insulation products, wiring, condoms and animal care products
- Other uses of wool alcohols are as a component of sticking plasters and self-adhesive dressings.

### **Remarks:**

- Besides wool alcohols, wool wax also contains other alcohols, such as, for example, cetyl- and stearyl alcohol. These alcohols can sporadically cause contact dermatitis on their own and can be patch-tested separately.

*Disclaimer: Always check your products as these lists can never be complete and ingredients change.*