



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: benzisothiazolinone

Your patch test shows that you have a contact allergy to: benzisothiazolinone

Synonym(s): (industrially used) Proxel[®], BIT

Definition: Benzisothiazolinone (BIT) or 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one is a preservative or biocide. It belongs to a group of preservatives called "isothiazolinones".

Use and occurrence:

In the EU and UK cosmetics may not contain BIT. However, it might be present in:

- cosmetics (e.g. sunscreens) bought outside the EU/UK (e.g. US or Canada), or over the internet.
- occupationally used hand soaps (erroneously containing BIT).
- household and industrial liquid detergents, washing up liquids, laundry softeners, textile fresheners.
- reusable polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gloves (e.g. for medical use).
- waterbased paints, varnishes, polishes, glues and adhesives (e.g. shoe glue).
- printing inks.
- wood cleaning and maintenance products.
- car, windscreen and domestic maintenance products of all kind.
- metal cooling fluids, coolants and cutting oils.
- veterinary products (e.g. dog shampoo).

Remarks:

- nearly all water-based paints contain isothiazolinones (as well as methylisothiazolinone [MI] they may contain BIT). Patients exposed to freshly painted rooms may experience a skin rash and/or respiratory problems.

- Related isothiazolinone derivatives include: methylchloroisothiazolinone (MCI), methylisothiazolinone (MI), 3-ethylamino-1,2-benzisothiazole HCl (Ectimar[®]), 2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (OIT, Skane M-8, Kathon[®] LM, Kathon 893 and Kathon 4200) and dichloro-octylisothiazolinone (DCOIT), often used in industrial applications.

- Patients sensitized to BIT may theoretically show skin reactions to products containing other types of isothiazolinones, such as MCI/MI, MI and OIT, although BIT contact allergy often occurs in isolation. Your patch tests will indicate if you are also contact-allergic to other types of isothiazolinones and whether you should avoid these or not.

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