



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: colophonium

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

Synonym(s): colophony, rosin, Greek pitch

Definition: Colophonium is a rosin from the pine and other coniferous plants hardened through evaporation of volatile components.

Use and occurrence:

Colophonium is widely used in production of cosmetics, soaps, topical drugs (ointments) and plasters, dental impression materials and periodontal packings. It also is used in optical glass polishing and production of photocopying and laser printing paper, printing inks, glues, metal working fluids, cooling fluids, polishes, sealing waxes and mastics. Colophony is present in cleansing products based on pine oil. Colophonium is used in bowed string instruments to improve friction between the bow's hair and strings. In athletics, archery and bodybuilding colophony is used to improve grip on sports instruments. In boxing, fencing, ballet and flamenco colophony is used on shoes to avoid slippage. Colophony (rosin) is also used as soldering flux in electronic, electrical, automotive and metal industry.

Colophonium (E915) and its glycerol ester (E445) are food additives that may be found in chewing gums, soft drinks, glazed products, fruit coatings and other foods. In cosmetics, colophonium is used as a binding, film forming, viscosity controlling agent, e.g. in mascaras, eyeshadows, blushers (rouge cosmetics) and products for epilation (e.g. waxes, plasters).

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