



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: octylisothiazolinone

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

Synonym(s): (industrially used) Skane M-8[®], Kathon[®] LM, Kathon[®] 893, Kathon[®] 4200, Pancil, Kw 1000, OIT

Definition: Octylisothiazolinone (OIT), or 2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, is a preservative (biocide); it belongs to a group of preservatives called “isothiazolinones”.

Use and occurrence:

Skin care products do not contain this preservative but it may be present in:

- household and industrial liquid detergents, cleaning products, washing up liquids, laundry softeners and maintenance products for textile (e.g. textile sprays to mask odours or to make garments wrinkle-free).
- waterbased paints, varnishes, gloss products and polishes (e.g. maintenance products for cars, boats, etc.), glues (e.g. wallpaper glue, shoe glue) and glue removers, adhesives, plasters.
- wood cleaning and maintenance products.
- gardening and do-it-yourself (DIY) products; car, windscreen and domestic maintenance products of all kind; antifungal coatings of car tyres and seats.
- fillers (e.g. for plastering or floor tiling); pottery.
- printing inks and toners.
- metal cooling fluids, coolants and cutting oils, silicone emulsions.
- as a fungicide used to treat textiles (e.g. compression stockings), leather articles (e.g. belts, shoes, gloves, watch straps), fur, carpets, mattresses, shoe linings, and sofas.
- contaminated articles and objects (e.g. sofas, toilet seats, towels, garments, etc.) treated with detergents, sprays, balms etc. containing isothiazolinones.
- pesticides.
- radiographic materials.
- industrial use of isothiazolinones may include: polymer (plastic) solutions (e.g. to manufacture chopping boards, rubbish bags, waste bins etc.), adhesives, latex (rubber) solutions, disperse organic pigments, textile processing fluids, paper and cardboard industry (e.g. in paper pulp), in the production of medium density fibreboard (MDF), production of water softeners, air fresheners, milk and water industry, and laboratory chemicals.

Remarks:

-As nearly all water-based paints contain isothiazolinones, patients exposed to freshly painted rooms may experience skin rash and/or respiratory problems; this has mainly been reported for methylisothiazolinone (MI), the mixture MI/methylchloroisothiazolinone (MCI) and benzisothiazolinone (BIT).



- Other related isothiazolinone derivatives include: 3-ethylamino-1,2-benzisothiazole HCl (Ectimar®), and dichloro-octylisothiazolinone (DCOIT), all often used in industrial applications, or, occasionally, in textiles (e.g. DCOIT in trousers).
- Patients sensitized to OIT may also show skin reactions to products containing related isothiazolinones, especially methylisothiazolinone (MI) and dichloro-octylisothiazolinone (DCOIT); these are “cross-reactions”.

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