

Skin Wars

Skin Wars -lite

"Because beauty is more than skin deep"

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INTRODUCTION

After years of researching company product claims of "natural", "safe", non-toxic" and "pure", the time has come to set the record straight. What follows is a simple ingredient comparison listing of each selected company's standard **body/hand lotion**. (*Products may go out of production, and ingredients may change over time.*)

While each company will create a product name which they feel will maximize the marketability of their product, we have attempted to identify similar products for this analysis.

We will allow you to draw the somewhat obvious conclusion as to what the hidden agenda must be that would cause a company to market products that mislead, injure and pollute (hint: \$\$\$). You may choose to also make the assumption that other products in a company's line are chemically tainted if their standard hand lotions are.

This e-book is not meant to be a complete study of this subject. We have chosen to highlight the potential danger from only a limited number of products and ingredients.

For your convenience, a link to the National Library of Medicine website is provided. This website will both enlighten and educate you on the negative effects of chemical use in personal care products.
<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/>

We trust that you'll find this edition of **SkinWars** a valuable tool in discerning the true value of each product listed. As your skin may absorb up to 60% of what is spread across its surface, it is **imperative** that toxic chemicals, synthetic ingredients, and genetically modified organisms be eliminated from your skincare and cosmetic products!

To your health,

Your Certified Organic Products.com
January 2006

Company and Product Directory

(listed alphabetically)

❖ Alba Botanica	Emollient Body Lotion
❖ Arbonne	Hand Cream
❖ Aubrey Organics	Hand and Body Lotion
❖ Avalon	Hand & Body Lotion
❖ Aveeno	Daily Moisturizing Lotion
❖ Avon	Basics Hand Crème
❖ Ecco Bella	Herbal Body Lotion
❖ Herbalife	Soothing Hand & Body Lotion
❖ Jason Natural	Hand & Body Lotion
❖ Kiss My Face	Peaches & Crème Moisturizer
❖ L'Oreal	Nutrifit Body & Hand
❖ Mary Kay	Hand & Body Hydrating Lotion
❖ Nature's Gate	Ultra-Hydrating Lotion
❖ MiEssence	Intensive Body Cream
❖ Revlon	Aquamarine Body Lotion
❖ The Body Shop	Milk Body Lotion
❖ Weleda	Wild Rose Body Lotion
❖ Zia Natural	Ultimate Hand Moisture



The See-No-Evil monkey is used to identify companies who do not fully disclose the ingredients on their website. What are they hiding?

Alba Botanica

Emollient Body Lotion
12fl.oz/350 ml



Certified Organic Herbal infusion of Chamomile
Echinacea
Green Tea
Lavender
Safflower Oil
Jojoba Oil
Sesame Oil
Grape Seed Oil
Avocado Oil
Vegetable Glycerin
Certified Organic Aloe Barbadensis
Glyceryl Stearate
Isopropyl Palmitate
Stearic Acid
Cucumber Extract
Organic Sea Kelp Extract
Panthenol
Lecithin
Silica
Botanical Fragrance
Methyl/Propylparaben
Tocopheryl Acetate
Tocopherol

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream
8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol (B-5)
Organic grapefruit seed extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Arbonne

Hand Cream
3.5oz./



Water
Safflower Oil
Glycerin
Glyceryl Stearate
PEG-100 Stearate
Apricot Kernel Oil
Jojoba Oil,
Aloe Vera Gel
Avocado Oil
Dimethicone
Stearic Acid
Cetyl Alcohol
Myristyl Myristate
Panthenol Tocopheryl Acetate
Cocoa Butter
Cetearyl Alcohol
Ceteareth-20
Carbomer
Triethanolamine
Methylparaben
Diazolidinyl Urea
Allantoin
Propylparaben
Fragrance (Natural)

Aubrey Organics

Hand & Body Lotion

12fl.oz/350 ml



Coconut Fatty Acid
Cream Base,
Organic Aloe Vera,
Vegetable Glycerin,
Sweet Almond Oil,
Wheat Germ Oil,
Collagen,
Elastin (from bovine sources
within the U.S.),
Linoleic Acid (Vitamin F),
Organic Jojoba Oil,
Organic Evening Primrose
Oil,
Witch Hazel
Pantothenate (Vitamin B-5),
PABA,
Aubrey's Preservative
(Citrus Seed Extract,
Vitamins A, C and E),
Bitter Almond Oil.

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream

8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Avalon

Hand & Body Lotion

12fl.oz/350 ml



Organic citrus lemon peel
Calendula officinalis
Chamomilla recutita
Gingko Biloba & Camellia
Sinensis green tea extracts
Sorbitol
Glycerin
Cetyl alcohol
Stearyl alcohol
Helianthus annus oil
Cyclopentasiloxane
Emulsifying wax
Organic flaxseed oil
Organic coconut oil
Organic cocoa butter
Beta glucan (oat)
Babasuamadopropalkonium
Chloride
Dimethicone
Stearic acid
Chamomile
Arginine (amino acid)
Sodium chlorode
Ethylhexylglycerin
Organic citrus peel oil

Aveeno

Daily Moisturizing Lotion

18fl.oz - 532 ml



Water
Glycerin
Distearyldimonium Chloride
Petrolatum
Isopropyl Palmitate
Cetyl Alcohol
Avena Sativa Kernel Flour
Benzyl Alcohol
Sodium Chloride
Dimethicone 1.25%

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream

8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Avon

BASICS Hand Cream

18fl.oz - 532 ml



Beeswax
Blue 1
Carbomer
Ethylparaben
Fragrance
Glycerin
Glyceryl oleate
Glyceryl stearate
Hydrogenated soybean oil
Isopropyl myristate
Lanolin oil
Methylparaben
Mineral oil
Myristyl myristate
Propylene glycol
Red 4
Sodium glyceryl oleate
Phosphate
Steareth-2
Tetrasodium edta
Theobroma cacao (cocoa)
Seed butter
Triethanolamine
Water
Yellow 5

Ecco Bella

Herbal Body Lotion

8.5 fl oz / 255 ml



Organic Safflower Oil
Sweet Almond Oil
Sesame Oil
Organic Aloe Vera
Cetyl Alcohol
Glyceryl Monostearate
Babassu Oil
Coconut Oil
Beeswax
Organic Flax Oil
Organic Extracts of
Caledula
Comfrey
Chamomile
Tocopherol
Retinyl Palmitate
Essential Oil of Lavender
Essential Oil of Rosemary
Essential Oil of Geranium
Grapefruit Seed Extract
Iron Oxide
Propylparaben
Methylparaben

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream

8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Holista

Vitamin E Moisturizing Cream

60g -



Purified Water
D1-alpha Tocopheryl
Acetate
Caprylic/Capric Triglyceride
Glyceryl Stearate
Behenyl Alcohol
Palmitic Acid
Stearic Acid
C 12-16 Alcohols
Chamomilla Recutita
Calendula Officinalis
Vitis Venifera
Propylene Glycol
Disodium EDTA
Lecithin
Diazolidinyl Urea
Carbomer
Alantoin
Aloe Barbadensis
Iodopropynyl
Butylcarbamate
Echinacea Purpurea
Lavandula

Herbalife

Soothing Hand & Body Lotion

8.0 oz./250ml



Water
Pentaerythryl
Tetracaprylate/tetracaprate
Butylene glycol
Glyceryl stearate
Squalane, glycerin
Peg-40 stearate
Phenyl trimethicone
Prunus amygdalus
Dulcis (sweet almond) oil
Cetearyl alcohol
Dimethicone
Glucosamine hcl
Laminaria digitata extract
Saccharomyces cerevisiae
extract
Camellia sinensis leaf extract
Decarboxy carnosine hcl
Urea
Sucrose
Hydrogenated vegetable oil
Cetyl esters
Acrylates/c10-30 alkyl
Acrylate crosspolymer
Fragrance (parfum)
Disodium edta
Triethanolamine
Phenoxyethanol
Methylparaben
Ethylparaben
Propylparaben
Butylparaben

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream

8.5 fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Jason Natural

Hand & Body Lotion

8 fl. oz/ 240 ml



Purified Water
Lavender Hydroflorate
(Certified Organic)
Rose Hip Extract
Aloe Barbadensis Gel
(Certified Organic)
Glycerin, Potassium
Stearate
Gardenia Extract
Wheat Germ Oil
Tocopheryl
Caprylic/Capric Triglycerides
Sunflower Oil
(Certified Organic)
Glyceryl Stearate
Avocado Oil
Natural Tocopherol
Chamomile Extract
(Certified Organic)
Ascorbyl
Natural Tocotrienol
Cetyl Alcohol
Dimethicone
Stearic Acid
Retinyl Palmitate
Stearyl Alcohol
Panthenol (Vit. B5)
Yucca Extract
Allantoin
Octinoxate (Sunscreen)
Comfrey Extract
(Certified Organic)
Potassium Carbomer
Citrus Grandis
(Grapefruit Seed Extract)
Potassium Sorbate
Sodium Benzoate

Kiss My Face

*Peaches & Crème Moisturizer
16 fl. oz./480 ml*



Water,
Isopropyl Palmitate
Propylene Glycol
Cetyl Alcohol
Extracts Of Bilberry
Sugar Cane
Sugar Maple
Orange & Lemon
Cetearyl Alcohol
Polysorbate 60
Glyceryl Stearate
PEG-100 Stearate
Coco Caprylate/Caprata
Squalane
Shea Butter
Safflower Oil
Sunflower Oil
Sweet Almond Oil
Jojoba Oil
Soybean Oil
Polysorbate 20
Aloe Vera Gel
Allantoin
Retinyl Palmitate
Tocopheryl Acetate
Extracts Of Peach
Lemongrass & Grapefruit
Seed
Fragrance,
Methylparaben
Propylparaben
Sodium
Hydroxymethylglycinate

MiEssence

*Intensive Body Cream
8.5fl.oz/250ml*



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

L'Oreal

*Nutrifit Body & Hand
12 fl oz/350ml*



Water
Glycerin
Cyclopentasiloxane
Petrolatum
Butyrospermum Parkii Fruit
(Shea Butter)
Elaeis Guineensis Oil (Palm)
Aluminum Starch
Octenylsuccinate
Mineral Oil
Cetearyl Alcohol
Cocoglucoside
Ammonium
Polyacryloyldimethyl Taurate
Xanthan Gum
Pea Extract
Disodium EDTA
2-Oleamido-1
3-Octadecanediol
Methylparaben
Imidazolidinyl
Urea
Butylparaben
Fragrance

Mary Kay

Hand & Body Hydrating Lotion
8 fl.oz./220ml



Water
Glycerin
Stearic Acid
Mineral Oil
Propylene Glycol
Triethanolamine
PEG-2 Stearate
C10-30
Cholesterol/Lanosterol
Esters
Methylparaben
Xanthan Gum
Propylparaben
Disodium EDTA

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream
8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Nature's Gate

Ultra-Hydrating Lotion
12 fl oz / 350 ml



Organic Rose Geranium
Hydrosol
Organic Clary Sage Hydrosol
Botanical Infusion of Organic
Fig, Kiwi, Kumquat,
Horsetail, Marshmallow, Birch,
Hops, Mallow, French Rose,
Heather, Sunflower Seed Oil,
Caprylic/capric Triglyceride
Vegetable Glycerin
Glyceryl Stearate
PEG 100 Stearate
Organic Aloe Vera
Grapefruit Pulp
Organic Jojoba Oil
Tocopheryl
Apricot Kernel Oil
Panthenol
Ascorbyl Palmitate
Squalane
Retinyl Palmitate
Sorbitan Stearate
Cetearyl Alcohol
Stearic Acid
Sodium Hyaluronate
Sodium PCA
Wheat Amino Acids
Saccharide Isomerate
Dimethicone
Carbomer
Ergocalciferol
Tromethamine
Polysorbate 60
Butylene Glycol
Grapefruit Peel
Ginger Essential Oil
Grapefruit Seed Extract
Methylparaben
Propylparaben
Caramel
Fragrance Oils

Revlon

Aquamarine Body Lotion
14.8 fl oz / 437 ml



Water
Isopropyl Palmitate
Propylene Glycol
TEA-Stearate
Stearic Acid
Hydrogenated Soy Glyceride
Cetyl Alcohol
Aloe Extract
Talc
Sorbitan Stearate
Polysorbate 60
Dimethicone
TEA Carbomer
Trisodium EDTA
Fragrance
Methylparaben
Propylparaben
Diazolidinyl Urea
Titanium Dioxide

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream
8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

The Body Shop

Milk Body Lotion
8.4 fl oz / 250ml



Water
Glycerin
Octyl Palmitate
Stearic Acid
Cetyl Alcohol
Fragrance
Dimethicone
Butylene Glycol
Polysorbate 60
Phenoxyethanol
Chamomilla Recutita
(Matricaria) Extract
Sodium PCA
Tocopheryl Acetate
Xanthan Gum
Methylparaben
Sorbitan Stearate
Potassium Hydroxide
Propylparaben
Nonfat Dry Milk
Acetamide MEA
Lactic Acid
Acrylates/C10-30 Alkyl
Acrylate Crosspolymer
Disodium EDTA
Butylparaben
Ethylparaben
Isobutylparaben

Weleda

Wild Rose Body Lotion

3.4 fl oz /100 ml



Water
Jojoba Oil
Alcohol
Glycerin
Musk Rose Oil
Glyceryl Stearate SE
Glyceryl Linoleate
Calendula Extract
Shea Butter
Rose Oil
Fragrance
Witch Hazel Distillate
Beeswax
Sodium Beeswax
Magnesium Aluminum
Silicate
Carrageenan
Xanthan Gum

MiEssence

Intensive Body Cream

8.5fl.oz/250ml



Organic aloe vera leaf juice
Organic safflower seed oil
Purified water
Organic avocado fruit oil
Organic shea fruit butter
Organic bitter orange
extract
Non-gmo lecithin
Organic sugar-cane ethanol
d-panthenol
Organic grapefruit seed
extract
Organic olive juice extract
Olive leaf extract
Natural gum
Proprietary blend of organic
essential oils
Organic vanilla extract

Zia Natural

Ultimate Hand Moisture

1.7 fl oz /50 ml



Aqueous Infusion of Sea
Algae
Caprylic/Capric Triglyceride
Glyceryl Stearate SE
Shea Butter
Cetyl Alcohol
Stearyl Alcohol
Cetyl Ricinoleate
Dimethicone
Avocado Oil
Polysorbate 60
Sodium Hyaluronate
Sodium PCA
Phenoxyethanol,
Sweet Orange,
Rosewood and Sandalwood
Essential Oils
Tocopheryl Acetate
Retinyl Palmitate

Toxic Ingredient Dictionary

The following chemicals are commonly found in many hair care, skin care and cosmetic products.

Manufacturers of these chemicals must register a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with the US Federal Government.

All of the chemicals defined below have one or more deleterious effects on humans and other animals, as well as the environment.

Some serious questions to be raised are: Why does the government allow these toxins to be included in products consumed by humans? Do you know the long-term affects of what you may be putting on your skin?

Please carefully consider the MSDS warnings, as most manufacturers of hair care, skin care, or cosmetic products will not tell you of these potential health hazards...

Alcohol, Isopropyl (SD-40): A very drying and irritating solvent and dehydrator that strips your skin's natural acid mantle, making us more vulnerable to bacteria, moulds and viruses. It is made from propylene, a petroleum derivative. It may promote brown spots and premature aging of skin.

Amines:

DEA (Diethanolamine)

MEA (Monoethanolamine) Also known as MEA compounds.

TEA (Triethanolamine)

Often used in cosmetics to adjust the pH, and used with many fatty acids to convert acid to salt (stearate), which then becomes the base for a cleanser. TEA causes allergic reactions including eye problems, dryness of hair and skin, and could be toxic if absorbed into the body over a long period of time.

These chemicals are already restricted in Europe due to known carcinogenic effects. Dr. Samuel Epstein (Professor of Environmental Health at the University of Illinois) says that repeated skin applications . . .of DEA-based detergents resulted in a major increase in the incidence of liver and kidney cancer.

(Also see Nitrosating agents)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Health Hazard Acute And Chronic: Product is severely irritating to body tissues and possibly corrosive to the eyes.

Explanation Carcinogenicity: Amines react with nitrosating agents to form nitrosamines, which are carcinogenic.

Ammonium Laureth Sulfate (ALES): See Anionic Surfactants
(Also see Sodium Laureth Sulfate and Nitrosating Agents)

Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate (ALS): See Anionic Surfactants
(Also see Sodium Laureth Sulfate and Nitrosating Agents)

Anionic Surfactants: Anionic refers to the negative charge these surfactants have. They may be contaminated with nitrosamines, which are carcinogenic. Surfactants can pose serious health threats. They are used in car washes, as garage floor cleaners and engine degreasers - and in 90% of personal-care products that foam.

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS)
Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES)
Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate (ALS)
Ammonium Laureth Sulfate (ALES)
Sodium Methyl Cocoyl Taurate
Sodium Lauroyl Sarcosinate
Sodium Cocoyl Sarcosinate
Potassium Coco Hydrolysed Collagen
TEA (Triethanolamine) Lauryl Sulfate
TEA (Triethanolamine) Laureth Sulfate
Lauryl or Cocoyl Sarcosine
Disodium Oleamide Sulfosuccinate
Disodium Laureth Sulfosuccinate
Disodium Dioctyl Sulfosuccinate

Benzalkonium Chloride: Highly toxic, primary skin irritant.
(Also see Cationic surfactants)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Benzalkonium Chloride is highly toxic via oral route.

Effects of overexposure: mists can cause irritation to the skin, eyes, nose, throat and mucous membranes. Avoid direct contact. Symptoms: muscular paralysis, low blood pressure, CNS depression and weakness.

Emergency and first aid procedures;

Eyes: corrosive! Immediately wash eyes with plenty of water.

Inhalation: remove person to fresh air. Give oxygen (if breathing is difficult). Call physician.

Ingestion: if conscious, immediately drink large quantities of fluid to dilute and induce vomiting. Call physician.

BHA: Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA) Causes allergic contact dermatitis.

BHT: Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT) Causes allergic contact dermatitis. Contains toluene. (Also see Toluene)

Bronopol: 2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol: Toxic, causes allergic contact dermatitis.
(Also see Nitrosating agents)

Cationic surfactants: These chemicals have a positive electrical charge. They contain a quaternary ammonium group and are often called "quats". These are used in hair conditioners, but originated from the paper and fabric industries as softeners and anti-static agents. Over time, they cause the hair to become dry and brittle. They are synthetic, irritating, allergenic and toxic, and oral intake can be lethal.

Stearalkonium chloride
Benzalkonium chloride
Cetrimonium chloride
Cetalkonium chloride
Lauryl dimonium hydrolysed collagen
Cetalkonium chloride
Cetrimonium chloride

Cetyl-Alcohol: Skin, eye and respiratory irritant.

Chloromethylisothiazolinone: Causes contact dermatitis

Cocoamidopropyl Betaine: Eye and skin irritant.

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):
Can cause eye and skin irritation.

Cocoyl Sarcosine: See Nitrosating agents

Cyclomethicone: See Silicone derived emollients

Diazolidinyl urea: Established as a primary cause of contact dermatitis (American Academy of Dermatology). Contains formaldehyde, a carcinogenic chemical, is toxic by inhalation, a strong irritant, and causes contact dermatitis.
(Also see Formaldehyde)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):
Causes severe eye irritation. May cause skin irritation.
Signs and symptoms of exposure:
Symptoms of inhalation: if misted, will cause irritation of mucous membranes, nose, eyes and throat. Coughing, difficulty in breathing.
Symptoms of skin contact: contact causes smarting and burning sensations, inflammation, burns, painful blisters. Profound damage to tissue.
Symptoms of eye contact: will cause painful burning or stinging of eyes and lids, watering of eyes, and inflammation of conjunctiva.

Dimethicone: See Rancid Natural Emollients

Dioxane: 1,4-dioxane is a carcinogenic contaminant of cosmetic products. Almost 50% of cosmetics containing ethoxylated surfactants were found to contain dioxane.
(Also see *ethoxylated surfactants*)

From the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

1,4-dioxane may exert its effects through inhalation, skin absorption, and ingestion. 1,4-dioxane is listed as a carcinogen.

Effects of overexposure: 1,4-dioxane is an eye and mucous membrane irritant, primary skin irritant, central nervous system depressant, nephrotoxin, and hepatotoxin. Acute exposure causes irritation, headache, dizziness, and narcosis. Chronic inhalation exposure can produce damage to the liver and kidneys, and blood disorders.

Disodium Dioctyl Sulfosuccinate: See Anionic surfactants

Disodium Laureth Sulfosuccinate: See Anionic surfactants
(Also see *Ethoxylated surfactants*)

Disodium Oleamide Sulfosuccinate: See Anionic Surfactants

DMDM Hydantoin: Contains formaldehyde.
(Also see *Formaldehyde*)

Ethoxylated surfactants: Ethoxylated surfactants are widely used in cosmetics as foaming agents, emulsifiers and humectants. As a part of the manufacturing process, the toxic chemical 1,4-dioxane, a potent carcinogen, is generated. On the label, they are identified by the prefix "PEG", "polyethylene", "polyethylene glycol", "polyoxyethylene", "-eth-", or "-oxynol-".
(Also see *1,4-Dioxane*)

FD&C Color Pigments: Synthetic colors made from coal tar. Contain heavy metal salts that deposit toxins onto the skin, causing skin sensitivity and irritation. Animal studies have shown almost all of them to be carcinogenic.

Formaldehyde: Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen. It may also cause allergic reactions, irritation and contact dermatitis, headaches and chronic fatigue. The vapor is extremely irritating to the eyes, nose and throat (mucous membranes).
(Also see *Nitrosating agents*)

Fragrance: Fragrance on a label can indicate the presence of up to four thousand separate ingredients, many toxic or carcinogenic. Symptoms reported to the US FDA include headaches, dizziness, allergic rashes, skin discoloration, violent coughing and vomiting, and skin irritation. Clinical observation proves fragrances can affect the central nervous system, causing depression, hyperactivity, and irritability.

Hydrolysed Animal Protein: See Nitrosating agents

Imidazolidinyl urea: The trade name for this chemical is Germall 115. May release formaldehyde, a carcinogenic chemical, into cosmetics. Toxic.
(Also see Formaldehyde, Nitrosating Agents)

Isopropyl Palmitate: Skin, Eye and Respiratory Irritations: A human skin irritant.

Isothiazolinone: Causes contact dermatitis

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Eye contact: corrosive to the eyes with possible permanent damage.

Skin contact: corrosive to the skin, possibly resulting in third degree burns. Can be harmful if absorbed. Can cause allergic contact dermatitis in susceptible individuals.

Ingestion: can be fatal.

Inhalation: can be corrosive to the mucous membranes and the lungs. Can cause an allergic reaction in susceptible individuals.

Lanolin: Any chemicals used on sheep will contaminate the lanolin obtained from the wool. The majority of lanolin used in cosmetics is highly contaminated with chlorinated organo pesticides like DDT.

Lauryl dimonium hydrolysed collagen: See Cationic surfactants

Lauryl or Cocoyl Sarcosine: See Anionic Surfactants, Nitrosating Agents

MEA compounds: See Nitrosating agents

Methylisothiazolinone / Methylchlorisothiazolinone: Both cause cosmetic allergies.

Mineral Oil Petroleum: By-product that coats the skin like plastic, clogging the pores. Interferes with skin's ability to eliminate toxins, promoting acne and other disorders. Slows down skin function and cell development, resulting in premature aging. Used in many products (many baby oils are 100% mineral oil!) Any mineral oil derivative can be contaminated with cancer causing PAH's (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons). Manufacturers use petrolatum because it is very cheap.

Nitrosating Agents: The following chemicals can cause nitrosamine contamination, which have been determined to form cancer in laboratory animals. There are wide and repeated concerns in the USA and Europe about the contamination of cosmetics products with nitrosamines.

2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,3-diol

Cocoyl Sarcosine

DEA compounds

Imidazolidinyl Urea

Formaldehyde

Hydrolysed Animal Protein
Lauryl Sarcosine
MEA compounds
Quaternium-7, 15, 31, 60, etc
Sodium Lauryl Sulfate
Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate
Sodium Laureth Sulfate
Ammonium Laureth Sulfate
Sodium Methyl Cocoyl Taurate
TEA compounds

Parabens (methyl, propyl, butyl, and ethyl): Used as inhibitors of microbial growth and to extend shelf life of products. Widely used even though they are known to be toxic. Have caused many allergic reactions and skin rashes. Highly toxic.

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Emergency overview: Warning! Harmful if swallowed or inhaled. Causes irritation to skin, eyes and respiratory tract. May cause allergic skin reaction.

Skin contact: causes irritation to skin. Symptoms include redness, itching, and pain. May cause allergic skin reactions.

Eye contact: causes irritation, redness, and pain.

Paraffin wax/oil: Paraffin Wax is mineral oil wax.

(Also see Mineral Oil)

Polyethylene Glycol: Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) compounds. A potentially carcinogenic petroleum ingredient that can alter and reduce the skin's natural moisture factor. This can increase the appearance of aging and leave you more vulnerable to bacteria. Used in cleansers to dissolve oil and grease. It adjusts the melting point and thickens products. Also used in caustic spray-on oven cleaners.

(Also see Ethoxylated surfactants)

Potassium Coco Hydrolysed Collagen: See Anionic Surfactants

Propylene/Butylene Glycol: Propylene glycol (PG) is a petroleum derivative. It penetrates the skin and can weaken protein and cellular structure. Commonly used to make extracts from herbs. PG is strong enough to remove barnacles from boats! The EPA considers PG so toxic that it requires workers to wear protective gloves, clothing and goggles and to dispose of any PG solutions by burying them in the ground.

Because PG penetrates the skin so quickly, the EPA warns against skin contact to prevent consequences such as brain, liver, and kidney abnormalities. But there isn't even a warning label on products such as stick deodorants, where the concentration is greater than in most industrial applications.

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Health Hazard Acute And Chronic.

Inhalation: May cause respiratory and throat irritation, central nervous system depression, blood and kidney disorders. May cause Nystagmus, Lymphocytosis.

Skin: Irritation and dermatitis, absorption.

Eyes: Irritation and conjunctivitis.

Ingestion: Pulmonary oedema, brain damage, hypoglycaemia, intravascular hemolysis.

Death may occur.

PVP/VA Copolymer: A petroleum-derived chemical used in hairsprays, wave sets and other cosmetics. It can be considered toxic, since particles may contribute to foreign bodies in the lungs of sensitive persons.

Quaternium-7, 15, 31, 60, etc: Toxic, causes skin rashes and allergic reactions.
(Also see Nitrosating agents)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Skin: prolonged or repeated exposure may cause skin irritation. May cause more severe response if skin is damp.

May be a weak skin sensitizer in susceptible individuals at greater than 1% in aqueous solution.

Rancid Natural Emollients: Natural oils used in cosmetics should be cold pressed. The refined vegetable oils found on supermarket shelves and many health food stores which lack color, odor and taste are devoid of nutrients, essential fatty acids, vitamins and unsaponifiables - all valuable skin conditioning agents. They also contain poisonous "trans-fatty" acids as a result of the refining process.

Another important factor to consider with creams made from plant oil is the use-by date. The most beneficial plant oils (like rosehip, borage and evening primrose oils) are polyunsaturated, which means they oxidize and go rancid fairly quickly (about 6 months). Most off-the-shelf cosmetics have a shelf life of three years. Rancid oils are harmful, they form free-radicals, which damage and age your skin.

Silicone derived emollients Silicone emollients are occlusive - that is they coat the skin, trapping anything beneath it, and do not allow the skin to breathe.

Recent studies have indicated that prolonged exposure of the skin to sweat, by occlusion, causes skin irritation. Some synthetic emollients are known tumor promoters and accumulate in the liver and lymph nodes. They are also non-biodegradable, causing negative environmental impact.

Dimethicone

Dimethicone Copolyol

Cyclomethicone

Sodium Cocoyl Sarcosinate: See Anionic Surfactants

Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES) Ammonium Laureth Sulfate (ALES):

When combined with other chemicals, SLES and ALES can create nitrosamines, a potent class of carcinogens. It is frequently disguised in semi-natural cosmetics with the explanation "comes from coconut".

(Also see Anionic Surfactants; Ethoxylated surfactants; and Nitrosating agents)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Warning! Causes skin and eye irritation! Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing. The material was classified as a moderate to severe eye irritant.

Sodium Lauroyl Sarcosinate: See Anionic Surfactants

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS) Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate (ALS): Used in car washes, garage floor cleaners and engine degreasers - and in 90% of products that foam.

Animals exposed to SLS and ALS experience eye damage, central nervous system depression, labored breathing, diarrhea, severe skin irritation, and even death.

Young eyes may not develop properly if exposed to SLS and ALS because proteins are dissolved. SLS and ALS may also damage the skin's immune system by causing layers to separate and inflame. It is frequently disguised in semi-natural cosmetics with the explanation "comes from coconut".

(Also see Nitrosating agents and Anionic Surfactants)

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Eye contact: Instillation of a 29% sodium lauryl sulfate solution into the eyes of six albino rabbits produced severe irritation. The material was classified as a severe skin irritant.

(MiEssence does not test on animals, or source any ingredients from companies that do.)

Sodium Methyl Cocoyl Taurate: See Nitrosating agents

(Also see Anionic Surfactants)

Stearalkonium Chloride: A chemical used in hair conditioners and creams. Causes allergic reactions. Stearalkonium chloride was developed by the fabric industry as a fabric softener, and is much cheaper and easier to use in hair conditioning formulas than proteins or herbals, which do help hair health. Toxic.

(Also see Cationic surfactants)

Talc (talcum powder): Scientific studies have shown that routine application of talcum powder in the genital area is associated with a three-to-fourfold increase in the development of ovarian cancer.

Toluene: Poison! Danger! Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Harmful if inhaled or absorbed through skin. Vapor harmful.

From Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS):

Flammable liquid and vapor. May affect liver, kidneys, blood system, or central nervous system. Causes irritation to skin, eyes and respiratory tract.

Inhalation: inhalation may cause irritation of the upper respiratory tract. Symptoms of overexposure may include fatigue, confusion, headache, dizziness and drowsiness.

Peculiar skin sensations (e.g. Pins and needles) or numbness may be produced. Very high concentrations may cause unconsciousness and death.

Ingestion: swallowing may cause abdominal spasms and other symptoms that parallel over-exposure from inhalation. Aspiration of material into the lungs can cause chemical pneumonitis, which may be fatal. Skin contact: causes irritation. May be absorbed through skin.

Eye contact: causes severe eye irritation with redness and pain. Chronic exposure: reports of chronic poisoning describe anemia, decreased blood cell count and bone marrow hypoplasia. Liver and kidney damage may occur. Repeated or prolonged contact has a defatting action, causing drying, redness, and dermatitis.

Exposure to toluene may affect the developing fetus.

Triethanolamine (TEA): Laureth Sulfate Synthetic emulsifier. Highly acidic. Over 40% of cosmetics containing Triethanolamine (TEA), have been found to be contaminated with nitrosamines, which are potent carcinogens.

From Material Safety Data Sheet:

Special hazard precautions: product is severely irritating to body tissues and possibly corrosive to the eyes. Handle with care. Avoid eye & skin contact. Avoid breathing vapors if generated. If there is danger of eye contact, wear a face shield.

Explanation carcinogenicity: amines react with nitrosating agents to form nitrosamines, which are carcinogenic.

(Also see Anionic Surfactants and Nitrosating agents)