

Paraben Mix

(MX-03A | MX-03C)

Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to one or more chemicals in the **Paraben Mix**. It is important that you familiarize yourself with these chemicals and take steps to avoid coming in contact with them.



What is Paraben Mix and where can the chemicals be found?

The chemicals in **Paraben Mix** are:

- **Butylparaben (Article Number B-020):** Used as a preservative in foods (salad dressings, mayonnaise, spiced sauces, mustard, frozen dairy products, baked products), cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations. Also known as Butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate.
- **Ethylparaben (Article Number E-010):** A preservative used in foods (salad dressings, mayonnaise, spiced sauces, mustard, frozen dairy products, baked products), cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations. Also known as Ethyl-4-hydroxybenzoate.
- **Methylparaben (Article Number M-012):** Used as a preservative in foods (salad dressings, mayonnaise, spiced sauces, mustard, frozen dairy products, baked products), cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations. Also known as Methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate and Nipagin.
- **Propylparaben (Article Number P-020):** A preservative used in foods (salad dressings, mayonnaise, spiced sauces, mustard, frozen dairy products, baked products), cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations. Also known as Propyl-4-hydroxybenzoate.

These chemicals are found in many foods, cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations. Make certain you read all ingredient label as manufacturers introduce and delete chemicals from their product lines. This may not be a complete list of product categories where these chemicals are used.



IMPORTANT NOTES

- (1) Specific Patient Information Sheets are available (by Article Number) for each of the chemicals in the Mix.
- (2) Based upon your patch test readings your Doctor may consider further testing to confirm which of the Mix ingredients are causing your allergy.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CONTACT ALLERGY

- Be vigilant ... read the product label.** Always take the time to read the ingredient listing on product packages. This should be your first step *each* time you purchase a product as manufacturers sometimes change product ingredients. If you have any concerns ask your pharmacist or your doctor.
- Test the product first.** If you have purchased a new product you should test it on a small skin area to see if you get a reaction before using the product on larger skin areas.
- Advise people you obtain services from of your contact allergy.** This should include people like your pharmacist, doctor, hairdresser, florist, veterinarian, etc.
- Inform your employer if the source of your contact allergy is work related.** You should identify the specific source of the chemical and take the necessary steps to avoid further exposure. Protective wear may be adequate or you may need to make a change in your work activities. Both you and your employer benefit when the cause of your occupational dermatitis is eliminated.
- “Google” it.** The internet is an excellent source of ingredient information that can be searched by product, by company and by specific chemical. Some helpful independent internet links include:

www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list)

www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factssubj.html (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list)

www.cosmeticsinfo.org (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database)

www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com (information on all S.C. Johnson product ingredients)

If you have any future contact dermatitis concerns or questions, please call the doctor's office.