

## Wood Tar Mix

(MX-14)

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



### What is Wood Tar Mix and where can the chemicals be found?

The chemicals in **Wood Tar Mix** are:

- **Beech Tar (Article Number B-002):** Used in tar paper, insulation tapes and topical medicaments. Also known as Fagus Sylvatica.
- **Birch Tar (Article Number B-011):** Birch tar is derived from the dry distillation of the bark of the birch tree. It is compounded of guaiacol, phenols, cresol, xylenol and creosol. Used as a component in pharmaceutical preparations.
- **Juniperus oxycedrus extract (Article Number J-003):** Tar obtained from distillation of Juniperus oxycedrus for use in medicaments used to treat eczema and psoriasis; and also in perfumes. Also known as Juniper tar.
- **Pine Tar (Article Number P-012):** This chemical is used for certain skin treatments as well as a wood preservative and sealant. It is sometimes applied to the hooves of horses and cattle as well as to baseball bats and gloves to improve grip. It is found in topical eczema treatments and rubefacients as well as in some medicinal soaps and antiseptics.

These chemicals have commercial use (tapes and papers) and are also used in both pharmaceutical and over the counter medicaments. Make certain that you read product ingredient labels thoroughly. 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](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html) (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list)
  - [www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsbj.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsbj.html) (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list)
  - [www.cosmeticsinfo.org](http://www.cosmeticsinfo.org) (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database)
  - [www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com](http://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.