

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate

(S-018)

Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to **Sodium Lauryl Sulfate**. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this chemical and take steps to avoid coming in contact with it.

i What is **Sodium Lauryl Sulfate** and where is it found?

The chemical is an anionic surfactant used in many cleaning and hygiene products such as carwash/wax, shampoo, bodywash, hair products, shaving cream, soaps, toilet cleaners and tooth paste. The salt is of an organosulfate consisting of a 12 carbon tail attached to a sulfate group, giving the material the amphiphilic properties required of a detergent. It is derived from inexpensive coconut and plain oils hence its use in many products. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

i What else is **Sodium Lauryl Sulfate** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

Dodecyl sulfate, sodium salt

Sodium dodecyl sulfate

Sodium lauryl sulfate

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate [USAN:JAN]

Sodium lauryl sulphate ether

Sodium n-dodecyl sulfate

Sulfonic acid monododecyl ester sodium salt

This may not be a complete list as manufacturers introduce and delete chemicals from their product lines.

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/facts subj.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.