

# Mercuric Chloride

(M-004)

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

## **i** What is **Mercuric Chloride** and where is it found?

This chemical is used as a topical antiseptic and a disinfectant. It is used in insecticides, preservatives and batteries. It is also used in dental material, mascara, as well as in some over-the-counter drugs like stimulant laxatives, diaper-rash ointment, eye drops and nasal sprays. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

## **i** What else is **Mercuric Chloride** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

<i>Bichloride of Mercury</i>	<i>Mercuric Chloride</i>	<i>Mercury chloride (2)</i>
<i>Corrosive Sublimate</i>	<i>Mercury Perchloride</i>	<i>Perchloride of Mercury</i>
<i>Corrosive mercury chloride</i>	<i>Mercury (II) Chloride</i>	<i>Sublimate</i>
<i>Dichloromercury</i>	<i>Mercury chloride</i>	<i>TL 898</i>
<i>Mercuric Bichloride</i>		

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](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.whatsinsidescjohanson.com](http://www.whatsinsidescjohanson.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.