

Patient Information

Colophony

Your TRUE TEST® indicates that you have a contact allergy to Colophony.

Colophony in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

Colophony or rosin is a resin obtained from the sap of different species of coniferous trees and is used in a wide variety of products for its ability to make things sticky and to increase water resistance of paper.

Where is colophony found?

Colophony may be found in adhesives, adhesive tapes, cements, putties, sealant, polishes, waxes including ski waxes, lacquers, varnishes, stains, greases, paints, wood fillers, rosin (used by e.g. violinists, sportsmen) and some oils. Additional exposure in the home may come from match tips, fireworks, yellow laundry soap, pine-oil cleaners, modeling clay and tacky substances such as athletic grip aids and postage stamp glue.

Colophony may be found in cosmetics such as foundations, concealers, sunscreens, eyeliners, mascaras, lipsticks, creams, color pencils and topical veterinary medications such as adherents, drawing salves, hoof ointments and softeners, blister creams and first-aid ointments.

Additional sources include chewing gums, topical medications, dental cements, dental sealers and dental-impression material, ostomy appliances and salicylic acid plasters.

Sometimes allergy to colophony may be a marker for allergy to perfumes, flavors and spices.

Industrial exposure may come from products such as printing inks, cleaning compounds, cutting fluids (tall oil), corrosion inhibitors, and surface coatings. Colophony may also be found in asphalt products, waterproofing agents, soldering materials, solvents, and linoleum. High-quality gloss paper may be coated with colophony.

Colophony is present in wood, sawdust and gum from coniferous trees.

How to avoid colophony

Because colophony is found in such a wide variety of products, it is important to use ingredient-labeled products that do not list colophony or any of its synonyms on the label. In the European Union all products containing more than 1% colophony have to be labeled with an allergy warning.

Wear Vinyl Gloves when working with substances mentioned in the previous section such as applying veterinary products, using pine-oil cleaners, varnishes, paints etc.

Use adhesive tape coated with acrylate glue.

Inform your dentist that you are allergic to colophony and ask for preparations that do not contain colophony or any of the other allergens to which you are likely to react.

Avoid sawdust from pine trees. Avoid contact with pine, juniper, tamarack, and other evergreen trees until you can be tested for sensitivity to them.

If you suspect that you are being exposed to this allergen at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to colophony.

What to look for

Synonyms for colophony

- Abietic acid
- Abietic alcohol,
- Abietyl alcohol
- Colophonium (INCI Name)
- Disproportionated rosin
- Methyl abietate alcohol,
- Pine rosin
- Resina terebinthinae
- Rosin solder flux fume
- Rosin, gum rosin, rosin gum
- Tall oil
- Wood rosin

Related substances to which you may react

- Wood tars, especially juniper tar (oil of Cade)
- Other evergreen trees in addition to pine trees
- Spices (nutmeg, paprika, mace, cloves)
- Fragrances, essential oils

The lists may not be complete.

When purchasing products which may come in contact with your skin, check the list of ingredients for any of the names listed above. If in doubt contact your pharmacist or physician.