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.

**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.

**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.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.