

Farnesol

(F-004)

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

**What is Farnesol and where is it found?**

This is a natural organic compound present in many essential oils such as citronella, neroli, cyclamen, lemon grass, tuberose, rose, musk, balsam and tolu. It is a flavoring ingredient used in perfumery to emphasize the odors of sweet floral perfumes and is also a natural pesticide for mites and several other insects. It can also be found in cigarettes. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

**What else is Farnesol called?**

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

<i>3,7,11-trimethyl-2,6,10-dodecatrien-1-ol</i>	<i>CAS 4602-84-0</i>	<i>Nikkosome</i>
<i>2-trans,6-trans-Farnesol</i>	<i>(E,E)-Farnesol</i>	<i>Polyprenol</i>
<i>2-cis,6-trans-Farnesol</i>	<i>Farnesyl Alcohol</i>	<i>Stirrup,</i>
<i>Beta.-Farnesol</i>	<i>FCI 119a</i>	<i>Trans-Farnesol</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** (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list)
 - www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsbj.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.