

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

i What is Ruthenium and where is it found?

Ruthenium is a chemical element and a rare transition metal, which is inert to most other chemicals. Ruthenium usually occurs as a minor component of platinum ores. Most ruthenium produced is used for wear-resistant electrical contacts and the production of thick-film resistors. A minor application of ruthenium is its use in some platinum alloys, and as a catalyst. It might also be found in dental implants. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

i What else is Ruthenium called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

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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.