

Sodium benzoate

(S-001)

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

i What is **Sodium benzoate** and where is it found?

This chemical is widely used as a preservative in acidic food products such as carbonated drinks, fruit juices, jams, vinegar-based salad dressings, jellies, pickles and condiments. It is also found in some soaps, shampoos, alcohol-based mouthwash, cough syrups and silver polish. It occurs naturally in cranberries, plums, apples, cinnamon and cloves. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

i What else is **Sodium benzoate** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

Antimol

Benzoate of soda

Benzoic acid, sodium salt

E211

NaC₆H₅CO₂

Natrium benzoicum

Sobenate

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/factsubj.html (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list)
 - www.cosmeticsinfo.org (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database)
 - 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.