

Sorbic acid

(S-003)

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

i What is **Sorbic acid** and where is it found?

This chemical is used as a mold and yeast inhibitor and as a fungistatic agent for foods; especially cheeses. It is also used in adhesives, glues, inks, paints, varnishes, tanning agents and metalworking fluids. It is also a cosmetic ingredient and it is used in pharmaceuticals and tobacco products. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

i What else is **Sorbic acid** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

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| <i>1,3-pentadiene-1-carboxylic acid</i> | <i>Hexadienoic acid</i> |
| <i>2,4-Hexadienoic acid</i> | <i>Preservastat</i> |
| <i>(2-butenylidene)acetic acid</i> | <i>Panosorb</i> |
| <i>2-Propenyl acrylic acid</i> | <i>Sorbistat</i> |
| <i>Alpha-trans-gamma-trans-sorbic acid</i> | <i>Trans, trans-2,4-hexadienoic acid</i> |
| <i>Crotylidene acetic acid</i> | <i>Trans, trans-sorbic acid</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.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.