



CHEMICALS OF CONCERN IN FEMININE CARE PRODUCTS



This list includes chemicals of concern that are discussed in Women's Voices for the Earth's *Chem Fatale* report. Print this list and leave it in your purse or bag to refer to when you're shopping for feminine care products.

CHEMICAL NAME	FUNCTION	POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS	FOUND IN
Benzethonium Chloride	Preservative, spermicide	Not for use on mucous membranes, maternal and embryotoxicity	Deodorant powders and suppositories, feminine wash
Benzocaine	Mild anesthetic	Allergic rash, dermatitis	Anti-itch creams
Butylparaben	Preservative	Endocrine disruption, increased risk of breast cancer, allergic rash	Wipes
D&C Red 33	Colorant (dye)	Not for use on mucous membranes	Feminine wash
Diazolidinyl urea	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde, allergic rash, cancer	Feminine wash, douche
Dioxins and Furans	Contaminant from bleaching process	Cancer, endocrine disruption, reproductive toxicity	Tampons (not disclosed on label)
DMDM Hydantoin	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde, allergic rash, cancer	Wipes, feminine wash
Ethylparaben	Preservative	Endocrine disruption, increased risk of breast cancer, allergic rash	Wipes
Ext. Violet 2	Colorant (dye)	Not for use on mucous membranes	Feminine wash
FD&C Yellow No.5	Colorant (dye)	Allergic reactions including bronchial asthma	Feminine wash
"Fragrance"	Fragrance	Contains undisclosed chemicals of unknown toxicity, likely to contain allergens, allergic rash, endocrine disruption, cancer	Wipes, feminine wash, tampons, pads, douche, deodorant, anti-itch creams
Methylchloroisothiazolinone	Preservative	Allergic rash	Feminine wash
Methylisothiazolinone	Preservative	Allergic rash	Wipes, feminine wash, anti-itch cream
Methylparaben	Preservative	Endocrine disruption, increased risk of breast cancer, allergic rash	Wipes, deodorant, anti-itch creams
Octoxynol 9	Spermicide	Genital irritation, increased vaginal discharge, potential reproductive toxicity	Douche
Pesticide residues	Contaminant of traditionally grown cotton	Cancer, endocrine disruption, acute toxicity	Tampons (not disclosed on label)
Polyoxymethylene Urea	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde, allergic rash, cancer	Deodorant powder
Propylparaben	Preservative	Endocrine disruption, increased risk of breast cancer, allergic rash	Wipes, anti-itch creams
Quaternium-15	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde, allergic rash, cancer	Wipes, feminine wash
2-Bromo-2-Nitropropane-1, 3-Diol	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde, allergic rash, cancer	Wipes

This list is not exhaustive. Other problematic chemicals not on this list may also be found in feminine care products and deserve greater examination. Learn more at www.womensvoices.org/chem-fatale



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