



TOXIC CHEMICALS IN SALON PRODUCTS: What You Need to Know

Due to a lack of government oversight, many products used in hair and nail salons contain a number of hazardous chemicals that may harm your health. Below are some particularly toxic chemicals to avoid in salon products, along with the health problems these chemicals are linked to.

| CHEMICAL NAME | FOUND IN THESE PRODUCTS | SYMPTOMS OF EXPOSURE | POTENTIAL LONG TERM EFFECTS |
|--|---|--|--|
| Dibutyl Phthalate | Nail polish | Nausea, dizziness, eye and skin irritation | Reproductive toxin, birth defects |
| Formaldehyde or methylene glycol | Nail hardener, nail polish, keratin hair straighteners | Breathing problems, coughing, wheezing, skin rashes, eye, nose, throat irritation | Cancer, dermatitis |
| Toluene | Nail polish, nail glue, hair dye, wig glue/ hairpiece bonding | Dizziness, headaches, skin rashes, eye, nose, throat irritation | Liver damage, kidney damage, birth defects, pregnancy loss |
| Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) | Artificial nails | Breathing problems, chest tightness, eye, nose, throat irritation, headaches, confusion | Loss of smell, reproductive toxin, asthma |
| Cyclopentasiloxane or cyclomethicone | Flat iron sprays, thermal protection sprays | Under the high heat of a flat iron, cyclopentasiloxane creates formaldehyde. Formaldehyde leads to breathing problems, coughing, wheezing, skin rashes, eye, nose, throat irritation | Formaldehyde exposure may cause cancer, dermatitis |
| Styrene | Hair extension glue, lace wig glue | Vision problems, trouble concentrating, tiredness | Cancer |
| Trichlorethylene | Hair extension glue, lace wig glue | Dizziness, headache, confusion, nausea, eye and skin irritation | Liver damage, kidney damage, dermatitis, double vision |
| 1,4 Dioxane | Hair extension glue, lace wig glue | Eye and nose irritation | Cancer, liver damage, kidney damage |
| 2-butoxyethanol or Ethylene glycol monobutyl ether | Disinfectants, cleaners | Headache, eye and nose irritation | Reproductive toxin |

READY TO GIVE YOUR SALON VISITS A MAKEOVER?

Download and print this fact sheet and bring it to your stylist or manicurist. Ask if any of the chemicals listed are in the products he or she uses on your hair or nails. If yes, you may want to talk to your stylist about switching to a safer alternative.

Note: This list is not exhaustive. More research is needed to both better identify hazardous chemicals used in salon products, and to develop safer chemical alternatives for harmful chemicals commonly in use.

For more information and resources about toxic chemicals in salon products, salon worker health and safety issues, and how you can get involved, go to www.womensvoices.org.



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