



# WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

OUR HEALTH. OUR FUTURE. TOXIC FREE.

## **Tampon components and possible ingredients:**

### **Absorbent core**

Rayon <sup>1,2</sup>

Cotton <sup>2</sup>

Organic cotton <sup>3</sup>

### **Overwrap fabric/non-woven cover**

Rayon <sup>2</sup>

Polyethylene <sup>1,2</sup>

Polypropylene <sup>2</sup>

Polyester <sup>1,2</sup>

Organic cotton <sup>3</sup>

### **Withdrawal string**

Rayon <sup>1</sup>

Cotton <sup>2</sup>

Polyester <sup>1,2</sup>

Polypropylene <sup>2</sup>

Water repellent wax <sup>3</sup>

### **Thread (for attaching withdrawal string)**

Cotton <sup>2,3</sup>

Polyester <sup>2</sup>

### **Additives/adjuvants:**

Fragrance ingredients <sup>2,7</sup>

Lubricants <sup>5,6,9</sup>

Odor control agents (zeolites etc.) <sup>5,7,8</sup>

Anti-bacterial (Anti TSS) compounds (Triclosan, Hexachlorophene etc.) <sup>5,7,10</sup>

Hydrophobic or hydrophilic fiber finishes <sup>4,5,6,9</sup>

Surfactant (polysorbate 20 etc.) <sup>6,7,9</sup>

Colorants <sup>5</sup>

Optical brighteners <sup>9</sup>

### **Applicator:**

Cardboard <sup>2</sup>

Plastic <sup>2</sup>

Polyethylene polymer <sup>1</sup>

Plant-based LDPE plastic <sup>3</sup>

Colorants <sup>1,2</sup>

Note: This list is based on an initial investigation of ingredients and is not meant to be exhaustive.

### Sources of information on potential components of tampons:

- 1) U by Kotex® Ingredients. Kimberly-Clark. 2017. Available at:  
<http://www.productstewardshipatkc.com/ourbrands/consumer/kotex/1>
- 2) What are tampons made of? Tampax. Procter & Gamble. 2017 Available at:  
<https://tampax.com/en-us/tips-and-advice/period-health/whats-in-a-tampax-tampon>
- 3) Organic Cotton Tampons with Comfort Applicator. Seventh Generation. 2017. Available at:  
<https://www.seventhgeneration.com/organic-tampons?v=2556>
- 4) US Patent 6,840,927 Tampon with fluid wicking overwrap with skirt portion. Assigned to Procter & Gamble. Jan. 11 2005.
- 5) US Patent Application # 20050256482. Tampon comprising a plurality of strips or cords. Assigned to Procter & Gamble. November 17, 2005. Available at:  
<https://www.google.com/patents/US20050256482>
- 6) US Patent 5,891,123. Tampon having a protective finger sheath and a method of forming. Assigned to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide. April 9, 1999. Available at:  
<http://www.google.ch/patents/US5891123>
- 7) US Patent 8,585,668. Rapid expansion tampon pledget. Assigned to Playtex Products. November 19, 2013. Available at: <https://www.google.com/patents/US8585668>.
- 8) US Patent 5,161,686. Odor-absorbing web material and medical material packages containing the web material. Assigned to Kimberly-Clark Corporation. November 10, 1992. Available at:  
<https://www.google.com/patents/US5161686>
- 9) US Patent Application WO 2007144846 A2. High surface energy tampon. Assigned to Procter & Gamble. December 21, 2007. Available at:  
<https://www.google.com/patents/WO2007144846A2>
- 10) US Patent 7,691,403. Non-absorbent tampon containing additives inhibiting TSST-1. Assigned to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide. April 6, 2010. Available at:  
<https://www.google.com/patents/US7691403>

## Menstrual pad potential ingredients and components

### **Top Sheet/ Body side liner**

Polyolefins <sup>1</sup>  
Polyolefin film and fibers <sup>2</sup>  
Cotton <sup>3,4</sup>

### **Top Sheet Additives**

Petrolatum <sup>1</sup>  
Zinc Oxide <sup>1</sup>  
Colorants <sup>2</sup>  
Lotion ingredients including: Petrolatum, Behenyl Alcohol, Zinc Oxide, Silica Dimethicone Silylate, C12-15 Alkyl Benzoate, Glycerin, Niacinamide, Panthenol, Polyhydroxystearic Acid, Isononyl Isononanoate, Glycine Soja Oil, Chamomilla Recutita Flower Extract, Bisabolol, BHT, Tocopherol, Hexamidine Diisethionate <sup>6</sup>

### **Absorbent Core**

Wood cellulose <sup>1,2</sup>  
Wood fluff pulp <sup>2,3</sup>  
Superabsorbent gel/ sodium polyacrylate <sup>1,2,4</sup>  
Rayon <sup>1</sup>  
Polyester <sup>1,5</sup>  
Undisclosed absorbent foam (Flex Foam) <sup>1</sup>  
Polyolefin fibers <sup>2</sup>  
Corn starch <sup>3</sup>  
Airlaid paper <sup>4</sup>

### **Back Sheet/ Pad backing**

Polyolefins <sup>1</sup>  
Polyethylene film <sup>2,5</sup>  
Colorants <sup>2</sup>

### **Adhesive**

Undisclosed adhesive chemicals? <sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

### **Fragrance**

Undisclosed fragrance ingredients <sup>1</sup>

### **Additives**

Negative ion strip <sup>4</sup>  
Undisclosed antimicrobial additive <sup>5</sup>  
Silver ions <sup>5</sup>  
Silicone polymers <sup>5</sup>  
Undisclosed odor neutralizers <sup>7</sup>

### **Wrapper**

Printed polyolefins <sup>1,2</sup>  
Cellulose <sup>3</sup>  
Starch film <sup>3</sup>

### **Wing paper/ peel strips**

Printed paper <sup>1</sup>  
Printed silicone-coated paper <sup>2</sup>

Note: This list is based on an initial investigation of ingredients and is not meant to be exhaustive.

**Sources of information on potential components of tampons and pads:**

- 1) What's in Always Pads? Procter & Gamble. 2017 Available at: <https://always.com/en-us/tips-and-advice/puberty-101/whats-in-always-pads>
- 2) U by Kotex® Ingredients. Kimberly-Clark. 2017. Available at: <http://www.productstewardshipatkc.com/ourbrands/consumer/kotex/1>
- 3) Natracare pads. Natracare. 2017. Available at: <http://www.natracare.com/products/pads/>
- 4) Cherish: 8 Layers of Protection. Now We No. 2017. Available at: <http://nowweno.net/cherish/>
- 5) US Patent Application WO 2015188074 A1. Disposable absorbent article having undergarment fastening elements. Assigned to Procter & Gamble. December 10, 2015. Available at: <https://www.google.com/patents/WO2015188074A1>
- 6) Always Ultra Secure Night Pads with Wings. Procter & Gamble. 2017. Available at: [https://www.mysupermarket.co.uk/tesco-price-comparison/Feminine\\_Essentials/Always\\_Ultra\\_Secure\\_Night\\_Pads\\_with\\_Wings\\_9.html](https://www.mysupermarket.co.uk/tesco-price-comparison/Feminine_Essentials/Always_Ultra_Secure_Night_Pads_with_Wings_9.html)
- 7) Always Xtra Protection with Odor-Lock Extra Long Dailies. Procter & Gamble. 2017. Available at: <https://always.com/en-us/shop-products/daily-liners/long-liners/always-xtra-protection-with-odor-lock-extra-long-dailies>

Compiled December 2017 by Women's Voices for the Earth