



BALSAM OF PERU (MYROXYLON PEREIRAE RESIN)

Your patch test results indicate that you have a contact allergy to Balsam of Peru. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching, and fluid-filled blisters.

Where is Balsam of Peru found?

Balsam of Peru is a fragrant resinous liquid harvested from trees grown in Central America. Not commonly used today, Balsam of Peru may still be found as a fragrance, flavoring agent or antibacterial ingredient. Balsam of Peru contains a mixture of many substances that are generally related to cinnamon, vanilla, and clove fragrances and flavorings (cinnamein, a combination of cinnamic acid, benzoyl cinnamate, benzoyl benzoate, benzoic acid, vanillin and nerodilol).

How can you avoid contact with Balsam of Peru?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- Abies balsamea
- Balsam fir oil
- Balsam fir oleoresin
- Balsam peru
- Myroxylon pereirae Klotzsch
- Myroxylon pereirae oleoresin
- Peruvian balsam
- CAS RN: 8007-00-9

What are some products that may contain Balsam of Peru?

Air fresheners and deodorizers

Animal repellent:

- Hoffman Dog & Cat Repellent

Cinnamon, vanilla and other spices

Cleaning products

Dental medicaments and cements

Essential oils and aromatherapy products

Flavored/Scented tobaccos:

- Djarum® cigarettes

Foods (natural identical chemical ingredients):

- Beer
- Chocolate
- Citrus
- Colas, sodas and flavored beverages
- Ice cream
- Tomatoes
- Vermouth
- Wine

Herbal and botanical products

Lotions:

- The Body Shop® Vanilla Body Lotion

Medicated lozenges:

- Nature's Way® Zinc Lozenges with Echinacea & vitamin C

Medicinal creams and ointments:

- Benzoin® compound tincture
- Hemorrhoidal cream
- Tiger Balm® Extra Strength Pain Relieving Ointment

Oral and lip medications

Perfumes and colognes

Pesticides:

- Bug-A-Tak Insect Spray
- Ortho® Bug-B-Gon® Full-Season Japanese Beetle Trap
- Spectracide® Bag-A-Bug® Japanese Beetle Trap
- Scented candles

Shampoo/conditioner:

- Ecco Bella® Vanilla Shampoo/Conditioner

Cross-reactions may occur to colophony (rosin) found in pine trees, wood and coal tars, resorcin monobenzoate, coniferyl benzoate, Tolu balsam, storax, propolis, turpentine, benzoin, tomatoes, orange peel, and clove. Some food ingredients found as components or related to Balsam of Peru include benzyl alcohol, benzyl salicylate, benzoic acid (and its derivative sodium benzoate), cinnamic acid, cinnamic alcohol, amylcinnamaldehyde, eugenol (bay rum), isoeugenol and vanillin. Although benzoic acid and sodium benzoate are not used as fragrance ingredients, you may need to avoid these ingredients which are used as preservatives in skin, hair, cosmetic, and food products.

For additional information about products that might contain Balsam of Peru, go to the Household Product Database online (<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.