

## Allergy to Epoxy Resin

### What am I allergic to?

You have been found to be allergic to **Epoxy Resin**.

### What is Epoxy Resin?

Epoxy resins are plastics, used mainly as adhesives in the industrial setting but also by DIY enthusiasts. They are found in two-component glues, such as Araldite or Bakelite, where a curing agent has to be added to the epoxy part of the glue to harden it.



### What must I avoid?

Cured epoxy resin is non-sensitising, so it is only when using the glue before it has hardened that problems arise. Usually the rash is on the hands. If in contact with uncured epoxy resins at work, fumes may cause an airborne rash on the face.

You should avoid two-component glues or wear nitrile gloves (such as NitraTex® or Nitra-Touch™ from Ansell Healthcare - [www.anselleurope.com](http://www.anselleurope.com)) which prevent the penetration of epoxies. Rubber, latex and neoprene gloves are inadequate.

You should also exercise caution with some one-component glues which may contain epoxies.

In addition to avoiding the resin itself, you should also avoid any compounds such as filters, pigments, plasticisers, reactive diluents and solvents that are then mixed with a hardening agent which cures the resin.

### Where can Epoxy Resin be found?

Epoxies are used in the following areas/products (amongst others):

- Production of electrical encapsulators, insulation, wires
- Production of orthopaedic prostheses, dentures, pacemakers and spectacles
- Production of casting moulds and in casting and laminating resin
- Production of glass fibre-strengthened plastic parts (eg models, tool making, boat hulls)
- Carbon fibres used in aircraft construction
- Textile and paper processing
- Leather dyeing and tanning
- Surface coatings (eg for floors)
- Paints and inks
- Product finishers
- PVC products
- Some vinyl gloves
- Handbags
- Plastic necklaces

Dermatology

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