

Non-organic health and beauty ingredients

These are some of the many ingredients not permitted under Soil Association standards. The INCI name (what you would see in the ingredients list on the label) is shown in brackets where relevant:

Ingredient (INCI)	Function	Why not?
Parabens (butyl-, ethyl-, methyl- or propylparaben)	Preservative	Possible hormone disruptor
Triclosan	Preservative	Potential hormone disruption. Ecological impact
Imidazolidinyl Urea	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde
Diazolidinyl Urea	Preservative	Releases formaldehyde
Sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS)	Detergent	Known skin irritant and environmental reasons
Sodium laureth sulfate (SLeS) and any other laureth sulfates	Detergent	Ecological impact (no ethoxylates allowed in Soil Association-certified products)
Ethanolamine (MEA)	pH balancer	Can contain secondary amines which pose a risk in some formulations as potential carcinogens and skin sensitiser
Triethanolamine (TEA)	pH balancer	Can contain secondary amines which pose a risk in some formulations as potential carcinogens and skin sensitiser
Artificial fragrance (parfum), including synthetic musks and phthalates - which are not required to be listed on labels	Fragrance	Most frequent cause of allergies from cosmetics; potential hormone disruption in some cases
Artificial colours	Colouring	Some artificial colours can generate potential carcinogens
Non-organic animal ingredients (e.g. collagen)	Various	Animal welfare

Talc	Absorbent	Some grades of talc are contaminated with potential carcinogens
Dimethicone	Moisturiser	Ecological impact
Silicone	Moisturiser	Ecological impact
Quaternium compounds (e.g. Quaternium 15)	Preservative/surfactant/emulsifier	Potential skin and eye irritant
PEG (Polyethylene glycol)	Moisturiser/ Emulsifier	Ecological impact (no ethoxylates allowed in Soil Association-certified products)
Liquid paraffin or mineral oil (paraffinum liquidum)	Moisturiser	Blocks pores. Ecological impact
Butylene glycol	Moisturiser	Ecological impact
Propylene glycol	Moisturiser	Ecological impact
Petroleum jelly (petrolatum)	Moisturiser	Blocks pores. Ecological impact
Ethyl hexyl methoxycinnamate (OMC)	Sunscreen	Potential irritant
Oxybenzone (Benzophenone-3)	Sunscreen	Potential irritant
Octyl-dimethyl-PABA	Sunscreen	Potential irritant
Nanoparticles (not usually listed on labels)	Various	Lack of available research to prove safety for humans