

Patient Information

Mercapto Mix

Your TRUE Test™ indicates that you have a contact allergy to mercapto mix.

Mercapto mix allergens in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Brief or occasional contact may not pose a problem.

Mercapto mix contains the following allergens:

- o N-cyclohexylbenzothiazyl-sulfenamide
- o Dibenzothiazyl disulfide
- o Morpholinylmercaptobenzothiazole

These allergens are curing additives used as accelerators in the manufacture of both natural and synthetic rubber.

Where are mercapto mix allergens found?

Mercapto mix chemicals are found widely in a variety of rubber articles in the modern environment both at home and at work. Examples of such articles are rubber tires and tubes for your car, rubber boots and shoes, rubber soles, gloves, garden hoses, elastic and rubberized clothing such as brassieres, girdles, support stockings, swimwear and swim caps and elastic bands as well as in rubber pillows, sponge makeup applicators, toys, balloons, baby bottle nippers, latex condoms, examination and surgical gloves, dental dams, rubber handles on tools such as tennis racquets and golf club handles.

Industrially they are also found in rubber products such as the lining for fuel tanks, caulking, electrical cords, plugs, gas masks, safety goggles, conveyor belts, shock absorbers, springs, mats, aprons, earphones, stethoscopes, rubber bands, erasers, rubber sheeting, non-slip waistbands, mattresses and anti-slip carpet backing.

Mercapto mix chemicals are also found in glue for leather and plastic, cutting oils, antifreeze, greases, anticorrosive agents, detergents, cements and adhesives, fungicides, veterinary tick and flea sprays and powders and film emulsions.

How to avoid mercapto mix allergens

Be suspicious of any product containing rubber that seems to cause a rash where it touches your body. Minimize your exposure to all rubber products at home, in your car and at work. Substitute products made of vinyl, plastic, leather, wood or fabric.

Avoid rubber boots and rubber shoes such as sneakers and tennis shoes as well as insoles. Wear solid leather shoes with no inner or outer soles, like moccasins. If in doubt wear new shoes for a few days and watch for a rash. Try insoles free of mercapto mix chemicals to see if using insoles makes dress shoes wearable for you. Beware of socks and stockings worn with shoes containing mercapto mix chemicals as they can contaminate and does not wash out.

Avoid rubber bands, elastic, rubber gloves, electrical cords, tires, rubber matting and rubber sporting equipment

Some rubber gloves are labeled “hypoallergenic and rubber free”. Even so, call the manufacturer to determine whether they contain mercapto mix chemicals, because also in synthetic products mercapto mix chemicals may be used as accelerators. Examples of gloves made of a synthetic co-polymer usually free from mercapto mix chemicals are styrene, butadiene, vinyl or nitrile gloves. Articles made with polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate or silicone are also suitable alternatives.

Avoid contact with pet and veterinary products containing benzothiazole related compounds.

If you suspect that you are being exposed to this allergen at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets. Wear protective clothing (aprons, gauntlets, and appropriate gloves) when handling rubber hoses, seals, cables, etc.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to mercapto mix chemicals and ask that they use gloves that are free of these allergens.

What to look for

Mercapto mix content:

- o N-cyclohexylbenzothiazyl-sulfenamide
- o Dibenzothiazyl disulfide
- o Morpholinylmercaptobenzothiazole

Common trade names

N-Cyclohexyl-2-benzothiazole-sulfenamide (CBS, CBTS)

- o Dibenzothiazyl disulfide
 - o Cyclohexylbenzothiazyl-sulphenamide
 - o 2,2'-Benzothiazyl disulfide

Morpholinylmercaptobenzothiazole (MOR, MMBT)

- o 4-Morpholinyl-2-benzothiazyl disulfide

Related substances to which you may react

Other rubber additives:

- o Mercaptobenzothiazole, carba mix, thiuram mix

The list may not be complete.

When purchasing products which may come in contact with your skin, check the list of ingredients for any of the names listed above. If in doubt contact your pharmacist or physician.

This information does not substitute the information given by your health care providers and can only be seen as a supplement.