Patient Information

Your patch test results indicate that you have a contact allergy to epoxy resin. 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 epoxy resin found?

Epoxy is a synthetic resin that uses two chemical components (typically diglycidyl ethers and a combination of bisphenol A and epichlorohydrin) to harden or cure. Epoxy resins can be made flexible or rigid, transparent or opaque, fast-setting or slow-setting and are extremely heat and chemical resistant making them ideal for many industrial applications- plastics manufacturing, casting resins, composite and fiberglass resins and two-component adhesives, as well as electrical insulating materials. It may be added to paints and varnishes, textile and paper coatings, concrete, mortar and cement, and to embed and prepare histology specimens. It is also used to manufacture many consumer products such as eyeglass frames, handbags, necklaces, and some vinyl gloves. Epoxy resins are frequently used in dentistry as well.

How can you avoid contact with epoxy resin?

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

- Epoxy resin
- Diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A
- Diomethane diglycidyl ether
- 2,2-bis(4-glycidyloxyphenyl)propane
- Aradite®
- 2,2’-(1-Methylethylidene)bis(4,1-phenyleneoxymethylene)bisoxirane
- 2,2-Bis(4-(2,3-epoxypropoxy)phenyl)propane
- 2,2-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, diglycidyl ether
- 2,2-Bis(p-glycidyloxyphenyl)propane
- 4,4’-Bis(2,3-epoxypropoxy)di phenyldimethylmethane
- 4,4’-Dihydroxydiphenyldimethylmethane diglycidyl ether
- 4,4’-Isopropylidenedibis(1-(2,3-epoxypropoxy)benzene)
- 4,4’-Isopropylidenediphenol diglycidyl ether
- Bis(4-glycidyloxyphenyl)dimethylmethane
- Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)dimethylmethane diglycidyl ether
- Bisphenol A diglycidyl ether
- BPDGE
- CCRIS 1965
- Dian diglycidyl ether
- Diglycidyl bisphenol A
- Diglycidyl diphenylolpropane ether
- Diglycidyl ether of 2,2-bis(p-hydroxyphenyl)propane
- Diglycidyl ether of 4,4’-isopropylidenediphenol
- Diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A
- Diomethane diglycidyl ether
- EINECS 216-823-5
- Oxiran, 2,2’-(1-methylethylidene)bis(4,1-phenyleneoxymethylene)bis-

What are some products that may contain epoxy resin?

- Art and Sculpture Materials
- Casting Resins:
  - Casting resin
  - Smooth-on epoxy casting compounds
- Coated Paper and Textiles
- Concrete, Mortar, Cement
- Dental Restoratives
- Electrical Insulation Materials
- Epoxies
- Fiberglass
- Flooring, Floor Sealers and Coatings
- Model and Mold Construction
- Protective Finishes, Coverings and Surface Coatings
- Two Component Glues and Adhesives
- Two Component Paints and Varnishes

Epoxies penetrate vinyl and most natural and synthetic rubber gloves. Silver Shield/4H gloves may be used instead to provide protection against epoxy resin (www.MySkinAllergy.com and www.northsafety.com).

*For additional information about products that might contain bisphenol A epoxy resin, go to the Household Product Database online (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.