

PHENOXYETHANOL

Beautycounter believes everyone deserves the right to know what they are putting on their skin and in their bodies. Education, transparency and trust are part of our core philosophy, especially when it comes to potentially harmful chemicals hidden within ingredient labels. We have been asked on several occasions about the preservative phenoxyethanol — specifically as it pertains to preservation of our formulations. Preservatives in certain personal care and cosmetics products are necessary to protect human health as they prevent the growth of mold, yeast, and bacteria, as well as maintaining the formulas' stability.

We have based our phenoxyethanol safety assessment on numerous meaningful toxicological research studies; among them:

- 2 in vitro genetic toxicity tests
- 1 in vivo genetic toxicity test
- 1 lifetime carcinogenicity test
- 4 two-generation reproductive toxicity tests
- 1 prenatal developmental toxicity test
- 1 90-day subchronic dermal toxicity test

All the above tests were conducted using validated testing procedures and all tests indicated a lack of toxicity concerns from carcinogenicity, genetic toxicity, reproductive toxicity, and subchronic toxicology.

Based on this significant and conclusive body of research as well as an exhaustive analysis of the best peer-reviewed science, and after conducting rigorous scientific evaluation and our own endocrine disruption studies in partnership with Tufts University, we feel confident in the safety of phenoxyethanol at low levels (less than 1%) as a preserving ingredient in cosmetic products. Use at low levels provides broad spectrum preservation benefits with minimal risk to human health.

We have diligently reviewed the two studies on phenoxyethanol that have raised questions about the safety of this ingredient. We believe that these two studies have flaws and do not align with the broader conclusions of the scientific community.

The first study showed that high-level exposure to the chemical through oral ingestion can cause eye and skin irritation. Beautycounter does not use phenoxyethanol in any applications that would involve oral ingestion of the chemical. And when we use phenoxyethanol our formulation levels are significantly lower than those used in the study.

Second, a more recent study investigated a possible correlation between levels of glycol ethers in women's bodies and how long it took them to conceive. There are several flaws with this study, including:

1. The study did not test phenoxyethanol, but rather a cousin of the chemical (glycoethers)

2. The study did not find a cause and effect and relied on a self-administered study (a methodology that is not recognized by the scientific community)
3. The findings of the study were not replicated or corroborated by other scientific studies

The findings from the '15 study show no estrogenic, anti-estrogenic, androgenic, or anti-androgenic activity at any dosage tested, even those significantly above the levels in our formulas. The findings from the '18 study will be published later this fall.

To better understand any possible endocrine effects of phenoxyethanol, we have partnered with Tufts University School of Medicine, Department of Integrative Physiology and Pathobiology. We commissioned two non-animal tests of Beautycounter's phenoxyethanol supply for endocrine activity ('15 and '18; respectively). The findings from the '15 study show no estrogenic, anti-estrogenic, androgenic, or anti-androgenic activity at any dosage tested, even those significantly above the levels in our formulas. The findings from the '18 study will be published later this fall.

To address possible skin-irritant concerns prior to commercialization, all Beautycounter products, including those containing phenoxyethanol, are tested clinically through patch-testing for dermal sensitivity.

Finally, we don't stop at our scientific screening and testing processes. Beautycounter is dedicated to finding new preservatives and continues to be a leader in the Green Chemistry and Commerce Council (GC3) Preservatives Challenge, where companies have pooled resources to find viable alternatives to existing preservatives or new preservative systems (our Countermatch collection is a recent example of these efforts). Additionally, we are leveraging our advocacy efforts and serve as a Steering Committee member of the Sustainable Chemistry Alliance, a coalition of industry leaders who are working together on Capitol Hill to advance legislation that would help fast-track bringing green and safer chemicals to the market.