WOOL ALCOHOLS (LANOLIN)

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to wool alcohols (lanolin). 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 are wool alcohols (or lanolin) found?
Wool alcohols (or lanolin) are a natural product obtained from the fleece of sheep and are commonly used in cosmetics, toiletries and medicines.

How can you avoid contact with wool alcohols (or lanolin)?
Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- Wool alcohols (lanolin) or anhydrous lanolin
- Wool Wax
- Wool Fats and Glyceridic Oils
- Lanolin
- Degas
- Wool Fat or Grease
- Wool Grease Fatty Acid
- Fats
- Adeps Lanae

What are some products that may contain wool alcohols (or lanolin)?

Baby oils
Hemorrhoid preparations
Household polishes and waxes
Impregnating agents for textile, leather goods and furs
Insulation for wiring
Metal-working fluids:
  - Corrosion inhibitors
  - Cutting fluids
  - Lubricants
Over-the-counter and prescription treatments
for skin rashes or dermatitis
Personal Care Products:
  - Cosmetics:
    - foundations, powders, blush, mascaras, eye shadows, eyeliners and eye pencils
  - Hair sprays
  - Hair removers and shaving products
  - Lipsticks and lip balms
  - Nail enamel remover
  - Personal hygiene products:
    - Soaps, cleansers and shampoos
  - Skin care products:
    - Hand lotions, balms, creams, facial masks, ointments, lotions and moisturizers

Pet care or veterinary products:
  - Pet shampoos, conditioners and grooming aids
Polishes and waxes
Printing inks
Shoe polishes
Sunscreens

For additional information about products that might contain wool alcohols (lanolin), 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.