

BB creams, concealers, mascaras

Cosmetics: too many substances of concern



Be cautious, especially if pregnant

Executive summary



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After children's sunscreens and baby cosmetics, Wecf France releases a survey on cosmetic products. We made the choice of 3 categories of make-up products, which many women use everyday, and whose use has not decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic: BB creams, concealers and mascaras. Despite an extensive regulation at EU level, are these products always free from ingredients of potential concern for human health, especially pregnant women, known to be particularly vulnerable?

In May 2021, we purchased 17 BB creams, 15 concealers and 15 mascaras, sold in supermarkets, perfume stores, drugstores and organic shops. We investigated the ingredients of the 47 products and surveyed the labels looking for substances of concern for human health and/or ecosystems.

Based on existing scientific literature, we identified 37 substances of concern, including endocrine disruptors, persistent and bioaccumulative substances, nanoparticles or allergens. We also identified 50 plastic ingredients in a huge number of the 47 products.

We classified the 37 substances of concern in 3 categories: *of very high concern*, *of high concern* and *of moderate concern*:



13 substances of very high concern: scientific consensus for classification or known major hazards for human/animal health (CMR, endocrine disruptors, PBT, neurotoxic or with equivalent levels of concern).



9 substances of high concern: contact allergens, CMR, PBT or suspected EDCs but for which doubts still exist on classification, and which trigger a precautionary approach.



15 substances of moderate concern: trigger harmful consequences for ecosystems or potential risks for allergy, but where existing data require more investigation.



The full report (in French), with a detailed description of each ingredient of concern, is available on: www.wecf-france.org

● Substances of moderate concern









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Brands in alphabetical order

● Substances of very high concern

● Substances of high concern

● Substances of moderate concern

	Purchased at*	Number of ingredients of concern	Benzyl salicylate	BHT	Butylphényl methylpropional	Cyclomethicone	Cyclohexasiloxane	Cyclopentasiloxane	Dioxyde de titane [nano]	Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate	Ethylparaben	Methylparaben	Octocrylene	Zinc oxide [nano]	Phenoxyethanol	Benzyl alcohol	Bis-Ethylhexyloxyphenyl Methoxyphenyl Triazine	CI 77266 Black 2 [nano]	Butyl Methoxydibenzoylmethane (Avobenzone)	Diethylhexyl Butamido Triazone	Dioxyde de titane ou CI 77891**	Methylene Bis-Benzotriazolyl Tetramethylbutylphenol (MBBT)	Silica [nano]	Talc	Benzyl benzoate	Chlorphenesin	Citral	Citronellol	Diethylaminohydroxybenzoylhexyl benzoate	Drometrizole Trisiloxane	Ethylhexyl salicylate	Ethylhexyl triazone	Eugenol	Geraniol	Hexyl cinnamal	Limonene	Linalool	Parfum/fragrance	Terephthalylidene Diamphor Sulfonic Acid	plastic ingredients	
 KIKO Konscious Vegan BB Mousse - teinte 05	P	3												●						●																	●		○		
 MELVITA Nectar de roses BB crème SPF15 teinte rose des sables	MB	6																									●	●							●		●	●	●		
 NIVEA BB crème 5 en 1 Hydratation 24H FPS 15 - teinte medium	GS	12											●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					●					●		●	●	●	●	○		
 L'OREAL BB C'est magic perfecteur de teint 5 en 1 teinte medium foncé	GS	7				●	●				●			●	●					●															●		●		○		
 RIMMEL BB cream beauty balm Medium 9 en 1 SPF15 teinte 002	GS	13	●	●			●		●					●						●						●	●							●	●	●	●	○			
 LA ROCHE POSAY BB crème Hydreane SPF 20 teinte medium	PH	9	●									●		●	●			●		●					●					●					●	●		○			
 SO'BIO ETIC (Lea Nature) BB crème perfectrice teinte medium	GS	7																		●							●	●						●		●	●				
 URIAGE Roséliane CC Cream SPF 30 - teinte universelle	PH	10	●						●					●		●				●					●		●		●	●						●		○			

* MB = organic shop - GS = supermarket - PH = drugstore - P = perfume store

** According to tests performed by the French market surveillance authorities (DGCCRF), titanium dioxide not labelled as [nano] often proves to be made of nanoparticles. If we had performed such tests as part of our survey, showing the presence of [nano] titanium dioxide, we would have indicated them as being of *very high concern* in the tables above.

Concealers

Brands in alphabetical order

● Substances of very high concern

- Substances of high concern

● Substances of moderate concern

[illegible]

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Mascaras

Brands in alphabetical order

- Substances of very high concern
- Substances of high concern
- Substances of moderate concern

				Purchased at*	Number of ingredients of concern	Benzyl salicylate	BHT	Butylphényl methylpropional	Cyclomethicone	Cyclohexasiloxane	Cyclopentasiloxane	Dioxyde de titane [nano]	Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate	Ethylparaben	Methylparaben	Octocrylene	Zinc oxide [nano]	Phenoxyethanol	Benzyl alcohol	Bis-Ethylhexyloxyphenyl Methoxyphenyl Triazine	CI 77266 Black 2 [nano]	Butyl Methoxydibenzoylmethane (Avobenzone)	Diethylhexyl Butamido Triazone	Dioxyde de titane ou CI 77891 **	Methylene Bis-Benzotriazolyl Tetramethylbutylphenol (MBBT)	Silica [nano]	Talc	Benzyl benzoate	Chlorphenesin	Citral	Citronellol	Diethylaminohydroxybenzylhexyl benzoate	Drometrizole Trisiloxane	Ethylhexyl salicylate	Ethylhexyl triazone	Eugenol	Geraniol	Hexyl cinnamal	Limonene	Linalool	Parfum/fragrance	Terephthalylidene Diamphor Sulfonic Acid	plastic ingredients		
	AVENE Couvance Mascara haute tolérance teinte brun	PH	0																																										
	BOURJOIS Mascara effet Push Up Volume Glamour wonder black	GS	3				●				●													●																				○	
	CHANEL Le Volume Révolution de Chanel teinte Noir 10	P	4												●			●			●			●																				○	
	CLINIQUE Mascara High Impact Effet cils liftés teinte Noir	PH	3				●											●						●																				○	
	COULEUR CARAMEL Mascara Perfect Volume Extrême - teinte Noir	MB	3																●					●																		●			
	DIOR Diorshow Waterproof Mascara volume sur-mesure teinte Bleu Azur	P	3				●											●						●																				○	
	EYE CARE Mascara haute tolérance yeux sensibles teinte Noir	PH	0																																									○	
	KIKO Darker blackest volume & colour intensifier mascara	P	4				●											●	●					●																				○	
	LAVERA Volume Mascara teinte Noir 01	MB	4																											●											●	●	●		

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Our main results

- 31 products out of 47, more than 80% contain at least one ingredient *of very high concern*.
- On the 37 substances of concern we identified, 7 are endocrine disruptors *of very high concern*.
- 36 products contain plastic ingredients.
- BB creams are the most problematic category, with one of them containing 13 substances *of concern*.
- The organic cosmetics of our survey rank above non-organic ones.

Our main demands

- Ban ingredients which we identified as *of very high concern*.
- Establish a pictogram, similar to the one displayed on alcohol, to warn pregnant women of the presence in cosmetics of ingredients suspected of being of concern for human health, in particular endocrine disruptors.
- Ensure the correct labelling of nanoparticle ingredients.
- Substitute plastic ingredients.

Our tips

- Avoid substances which we identified as *of very high concern*, especially if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Prefer organic products and/or with labelling or logos which bring a guarantee on the absence of certain ingredients of concern.
- Avoid cosmetics which contain endocrine disruptors, nanoparticles, allergens, plastics, etc.
- Be cautious with perfumed cosmetics, which may contain allergens non indicated on the packaging. In case of allergies, carefully read the label to find potential fragrance allergens and better choose cosmetics for sensitive skin and/or perfume-free.
- Do not buy a product if you cannot read the ingredients list: ingredients of certain cosmetics of our survey, such as concealers or mascaras are sometimes not readable, which prevents consumers from making an informed choice.
- Do ask questions to retailers at the time of purchase; This can contribute to a faster substitution of certain ingredients of concern.
- Avoid using too many cosmetics together and everyday, to limit the so-called "cocktail effect".
- Remove your make-up at the end of the day, to allow the skin to breathe.
- More information in our pocket guides available on www.wecf-france.org



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