Environmental and personal care products for families and carers - smell and chemical sensitivity

SKIN & TEETH CLEANING

SOAP – not suitable for sensitive skin and definitely not to be used on infants and children with dry skin or eczema

CHOOSE a brand without added perfume or fragrance

Some examples of plain fragrancefree soaps are: Simple soap, Dove (fragrance-free), QV Bar, Dermaveen Cleansing Bar, Just Soap, Redwin Unperfumed Sorbolene Moisturising Bar

SOAP SUBSTITUTES – Suitable for dry sensitive skin if tolerated

Ego QV Wash (can also be used as a shampoo)

Ego QV Intensive Moisturising Cleanser

Cetaphil

Dermaveen Shower and Bath Oil Ego QV Flare-Up Bath Oil

Always turn on an extractor fan when using the shower or bath – moisture in the air encourages mould growth – moulds give off quite toxic odour chemicals and provide food for dust mites

OATMEAL BATH – To relieve itchy skin – not recommended for infants and young children with broken skin and known allergies

Dermaveen Oatmeal Bath Treatment

You can make your own oatmeal bath by putting some rolled oats tied in a stocking and swished in the bath water

DEODORANTS

AVOID all spray deodorants

CHOOSE a fragrance-free roll-on or stick variety. Many manufacturers now produce a suitable product

Available brands include: Ego QV, Simple, Nivea & Mitchum

If you have dry or sensitive skin, hands should only be washed with moisturizer (e.g. sorbolene) and cool water.

Warm water, chlorine pools, soaps, soap-substitutes and wipes with any foaming agent, cleaning agent or fragrance can affect skin integrity and cause dermatitis. The result is inflammation and skin damage and entry of germs and allergens such as dust mites and latex to compound the damage

SHAMPOO – not suitable for children with eczema

There are very few perfume-free, nonfoaming choices apart from using the soap-free washes such as *Cetaphil* and *OV Wash*

The next best option is to choose shampoo and conditioner with a low level fragrance and check for tolerance

Some health food stores may have suitable brands

The Soap Kitchen in King Street Newtown has a range of products that are usually tolerated www.soapkitchen.com.au

TOOTHPASTE

AVOID brands with added flavours

All brands contain some preservative to avoid mould or fungus growth in a cream product that is always exposed to the air

Soul Pattinson's Plain Toothpasteavailable from Soul Pattinson pharmacies

Oral Hygiene Solutions Plain Toothpaste available by mail order from <u>www.plaintoothpaste.com</u>

LIP AND NIPPLE CARE (if breastfeeding)

Lansinoh(100% pure lanolin)

CLOTHES WASHING LAUNDRY – Avoid brands with odours

Omo Sensitive Planet Ark Lux Amway

AVOID all fabric softeners and commercial spray starches

CLOTHES DRYERS – make sure that the moisture from the clothes is ducted externally – moisture that comes back into the house causes mould growth and dust mite. Clothes need to be very dry before storage

FOR SENSITIVE SKIN

Choose clothing made from cotton or Dermasilk ® that has a smooth surface (not ribbed) and check for any roughness from seams and tags

Wash all clothing a couple of times to remove the fabric finish before being worn for the first time

Wash dirty spots with perfumefree soap or mild detergent first and then do the machine-wash with plain water

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AIRCONDTIONING, HEATING &COOKING

INDOOR ODOURS

VENTILATION

Keep windows open at all times to avoid a build-up of odours, mites, moisture and moulds in the indoor environment. Fans help to keep air moving in a room

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING

Clear any clutter that inhibits good airflow into all corners of a room – keep toys in covered boxes and books inside cabinets with doors

VACUUM CLEANING

Use a good vacuum cleaner with a HEPA(high efficiency particle arrester) filter if there are any allergies or likelihood of asthma

FLOOR CLEANING

Clean floors with a mop and use a small amount of **fragrance-free detergent**

Floor surfaces that can be mopped are best. Carpets hold moisture, dust, food, animal, mould and dust mite allergen particles and allow moulds and dust mite to breed

TOILET and BATH CLEANING

Use brushes and special cleaning cloths rather than chemicals to clean sinks, baths and toilets.

Vinegar and **bicarbonate** of soda can be used as cleaning agents.

AIR CONDITIONERS

Choose a ducted or split system refrigerated cooling type of air conditioner

Avoid evaporative air-conditioners if there is a family history of asthma or your child has allergies. These add moisture to the indoor air that breeds moulds and dust mite

Clean filters from airconditioners frequently – different filter sizes will trap different size particles – many will trap dust mites but not the very small allergenic dust particles

HEATING

Gas heaters – Avoid unflued gas heaters – if leaky the gases have no odour but they are powerful airway irritants

Column heaters – while these are benign form of heating, pay attention to ventilation as heating will increase odours coming off furniture etc

COOKING

Gas cooktops increase indoor levels of carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide Always turn on overhead exhaust fans while cooking. *Check* the exhaust above the cooktop to see that it vents the exhaust to the outside. If not find out about the capacity of the filter to absorb particles, moisture and gases

Young children are most at risk of asthma and middle ear disease from exposure chemical irritants but sensitive adults can react to strong smells

Avoid using any form of air-freshener in the home or car

Avoid wearing perfumes/fragrances

Avoid moving into freshly renovated houses or rooms – the odours from paint, glue, new wood, new furniture and new carpet contain irritant chemicals for airways and

Avoid craft activities indoors if smelly paints or glues are being used

Avoid using aromatic oils or burning perfumed candles for "aromatherapy" or to make the air smell nice

Avoid using moth balls & cedar oils

Avoid smoking cigarettes –Note it is not only the smoke from cigarettes that has an irritant effect on airways but also the residual odours in clothing and furniture

New books need to be aired

When cooking, food particles become airborne attached to water or fat and later deposited in dust. This is especially important for those with fish, wheat and egg allergies as a trigger for allergy reactions in skin and airway.

GERM KILLING AGENTS

Avoid using triclosan® unless there is an infection and it is necessary for treatment – although effective it is not bio-degradable and the widespread use is likely to have ecological consequences

INDOOR PLANTS can be both a problem and useful

Harmful effects

- leaves may be poisonous if consumed by pets and small children
- increase indoor humidity
- mould spores may breed in soil

Positive effects

 Help with maintaining air freshness by taking up CO₂

DRY CLEANING

For dry cleaned clothes & furnishings, remove plastic and air outdoors until the chemicals have evaporated

CAR TRAVEL

When driving in city traffic it is hard to avoid pollution – air-conditioning with a good filter may help

AVOID filling the petrol tank when sensitive children are in the car

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SKIN CARE

MOISTURISERS – Choose one that is fragrance-free and doesn't sting. For children with broken skin, washing and the application of water-based products cause discomfort, stress and aversion-related behaviour problems with treatment

For children with eczema and food allergy or if you have a child with food allergy – check the product is free from nut oils

For very dry skin use an ointment rather than a cream – moisturisers should be applied very gently (not rubbed in vigorously) at least three times a day

Dermaveen Moisturising Lotion
Dermeze Ointment
Emulsifying Ointment
Eucerin
Hydraderm
QV Moisturising Lotion
Sorbolene

Fragrances and botanical products are the most common cosmetic ingredients to cause skin reactions that may be localized to the site of contact or a generalized rash reaction

SUNSCREENS

Look for products that are free from fragrances and do not contain nut oils, PABA or menthol. All creams must contain some form of preservative

Cancer Council Sunscreens Ego Sunsense Low Irritant Ego Sunsense Toddler Milk Hamilton's Sunscreen Soul Pattinson's Ultrablock

ZinClear™ -a clear version of traditional zinc cream

TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROID PREPARATIONS

Ointments are preferred for most rashes as they contain no preservatives and are less likely to sting when being applied

Note – only very mild preparations are available without prescriptions

Contact dermatitis reactions can occur to topical corticosteroid preparations – patch test for diagnosis

NON-STEROIDAL TOPICAL MEDICATION FOR ECZEMA

Elidel®(prescription)

MAKE-UP

There may not be any suitable products on the market for very sensitive skin. Products labelled as low allergy or hypoallergenic have only to be suitable for 90% of the population to carry that product claim

All liquid preparations contain natural or added preservatives. Foundations have to be pretty robust to cope with frequent opening, expected shelf-life and the very warm temperatures in storage places.

The expensive process of trial and error is the only way of finding suitable products

If you care for a baby with eczema or dry skin check the ingredient list of lipsticks, lip care products, moisturisers, shampoos, conditioners, shaving creams and make-up for nut, milk and egg products

Compare prices for skin treatments at on-line pharmacies

www.epharmacy.com.au

www.pharmacydirect.com.au

www.cincottachemist.com.au

DISPOSABLE NAPPIES -Avoid brands with any fragrance

Nature Babycare Nappies (white unbleached with a small green leaf pattern) www.colesonline.com.au

Moltex Eco Nappies & WotNot Eco Nappy bags www.ecodirect.com.au

Huggies ® suit most but not all children with sensitive skin

NAPPY RASH TREATMENTS

Many nappy rash treatments contain castor oil, zinc and pharmacy grade peanut oil. It is not known if they are a source of nut sensitisation

Products containing an antifungal agent and a low dose of a corticosteroid will treat infection and redness. A liberal application after each nappy change will be needed to treat the rash

Suitable non-medication products free from nut oils -

Duncan's Ointment diacaf@iinet.net.au

David Craig Emulsifying Ointment www.biotechpharma.com.au

Eucerin

Lansinoh – 100% ultra pure lanolin

Suppl	ements
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		Supp	lements		
VITAMINS & FOLIC ACID	VITAMIN C		CALCIUM & IRON CALCIUM		ENERGY SUPPLEMENTS CARBOHYDRATE SUPPLEMENTS
MULTIVITAMINS					
AVOID products with flavours, artificial colours, bioflavonoids, herbs, rutin, kelp or hesperidin	Intakes of Vitam day may be harn people.	in C > 600 mg per nful for some	Caltrate (600 mg) www.wyethconsumer.com.au/caltrate/ Herron Calcium Plus with Magnesium		Poly Joule Powder (maltodextrin, gluten-free) Glucodin Powder (powdered glucose)
Suitable products include: - Amcal One-a-Day Macro Multi M	Bioglan Cal C Herb Valley Vitam Golden Glow Calci Melrose Calcium A	ium Ascorbate	FAB Cal – 200 mg (a 2007) Golden Glow Calcius Chelate (250 mg)		MILK- BASED SUPPLEMENTS Pediasure Powder Vanilla (gluten-
Take one supplement daily for adults and about three per week for children if the intake of fruit and vegetables is restricted to	Melrose Sodium Ascorbate		AGE GROUP	Nutrient reference value (mg/day) for Calcium	free) Ensure Powder Vanilla
less than the recommended amounts	Ascorbate powders are useful to add to		0 – 6 months	200 mg	Sustagen Sport Vanilla
	syrups and Jams a	syrups and jams as a preservative		270 mg	
FOR PREGNANT & LACTATING WOMEN		Nutrient reference	1 – 3 years	500 mg	
Elevit	AGE GROUP	value (mg/day) for	4 – 8 years	700 mg	
FABFOL PLUS	Infants	Vitamin C 30 mg	9 – 13 years	1000 mg	Common misson for a small manner of
Avoid taking products with high dose	1-8 years	35 mg	14 – 18 years	1300 mg	Compare prices for supplements at on line pharmacies
Vitamin A in pregnancy	9-18 years	40 mg	19 – 50 years	1000 mg	·
, ,	Adults	45 mg	> 50 years	1300 mg	www.cincottachemist.com.au
FOLIC ACID	Pregnancy	60mg	Pregnancy	1000 mg	www.epharmacy.com.au
Alphapharm Megafol	Lactation	85mg	Lactation	1000 mg	www.pharmacydirect.com.au
Golden Glow Folic Acid I-Folic VITAMIN D ₃ – Vitamin D is required daily for healthy bones so a supplement is necessary if there is no sun access Blackmore's Vitamin D3 Healthy Bones (contains sodium sulphite so may not be suitable for all sensitive individuals)			infancy to 10 mg a day men. Adult women ha need of men while me treble with pregnancy FAB Iron & Vitamin elemental iron)	enstruating and almost	
			contains lactose and		

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PAIN RELIEF	ANTIHISTAMINES	AIRWAY					
Paracetamol tablets 500 mg – e.g. <i>Herron,</i>	H1 antihistamines are used to treat and	SALINE SOLUTIONS – buffered for the nose					
Amcal, Panadol	prevent hives and skin, eye and airway allergy reactions Choose tablets where possible. Each formulation has a different range of actions so it is important to test which suits you best. NON-SEDATING ANTIHISTAMINES	Narium Nasal Spray, Fess Nasal Spray					
Panadol Suppositories 125 mg, 250 mg		ORAL DECONGESTANTS Demazin Cough and Cold Butterscotch 200ml (2 years to adult) — butterscotch/vanilla flavour with no added colour or preservative (prescription item)					
The usual dose for children is 15-20 mg/kilogram per dose – less than this does not reach the therapeutic threshold and will not have any effect. Take care not to							
overdose overweight children – dose	Claratyne	TOPICAL DECONGESTANTS					
should be adjusted down to that for an appropriate weight for age.	Telfast	Drixine Nasal, Otrivin					
	Zyrtec ® (non- sedating in most people)	TOPICAL ANTIHISTAMINE SPRAYS					
For children the dose should not exceed 60mg/kilogram body weight per 24 hours	Zyrtec Oral Liquid Drops for children	Azep Hayfever Relief					
so if a dose of 20mg/kg is given then this	SEDATING ANTIHISTAMINES The degree of the sedating effect is highly variable. The liquids contain colour and flavour. This is usually tolerated in children with eczema	TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROID SPRAYS for the nose					
dose can be given 3 times in 24 hours AVOID liquid Paracetamol preparations as they are coloured &/or flavoured unless tolerance has been tested for these		Beconase, Rhinocort (32 mcg/dose) and Telnase are available over the counter Nasonex Aqueous Nasal Spray and Rhinocort (64 mcg/dose) are available on prescription					
					additives. Codeine is usually well-tolerated. Use Panadeine® if a stronger type of pain-relief	Polaramine Phenergan Vallergan & Vallergan Forte	
is required.		ASTHMA MEDICATIONS					
AVOID Aspirin, natural herbal pain-relief compounds and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (<i>Advil, Nurofen</i>)unless there is known salicylate tolerance	The use of sedating antihistamines under the age of two years is not generally recommended. However, in practice, babies with severe itch with eczema need some relief and <i>Polaramine</i> and <i>Phenergan</i> are well-	Always use asthma medications as prescribed. Metered dose inhaler(MDI) devices must be used with a mask and spacer for optimal medication delivery					
	tolerated. The dose should be discussed with your doctor.	AVOID cough lollies and syrups and medications, mouthwash or inhalations that contain Menthol, Mint, Camphor, Eucalyptus and Tea tree oil as these may make					
	EYE DROPS for ALLERGY	you feel better but they have no therapeutic effect and					
	Patanol Eye Drops (prescription) Zaditen (ketotifen) (prescription)	can be powerful irritants					

Medications						
REFLUX	LAXATIVES	HEAD LICE AND WORMS	ANAESTHETICS			
Medications to treat symptomatic reflux Infant Gaviscon Powder (contains magnesium alginate and sodium alginate) H2 antihistamines - Zantac tablets 150 mg (ranitidine) are available over the counter - The dose for children is 1 to 3mg/kilogram body weight/dose up to 8 hourly – discuss the dose regimen with your doctor if liquid not tolerated	Constipation is a sign of a problem in the gastrointestinal tract Duphalac-lactulose Actilax - lactulose Movicol - Macrogol 3350 (this substance is virtually unchanged in the gut and has no known pharmacological activity. Sachets have a citrus flavour but the plain powder is available from compounding pharmacies.	HEAD LICE (NITS) Before resorting to insecticidal shampoos to get rid of nits you can try Using a nit comb Suffocating the lice by oiling the hair thickly with pharmacy grade olive oil or soft paraffin (e.g. Vaseline) – the oil or paraffin needs to be left in for a few hours	DENTAL ANAESTHESIA Ask for plain lignocaine – avoid the dental local anaesthetics with adrenaline and octopressin as they contain preservative ENDOSCOPY The agents used to sedate for endoscopy are usually well tolerated			
Proton Pump Inhibitors (require a prescription) - Losec 10 mg or 20 mg tablets — the dose should be discussed with the treating doctor (Omeprazole reversibly reduces gastric acid secretion the final step of the gastric acid formation. The effect is dose dependent acid secretion is inhibited irrespective of the stimulus to acid production. Omeprazole has no effect on acetylcholine or histamine receptors so	Liquid Paraffin – oil that is not digested Parachoc – the flavour is vanilla and chocolate and is mostly tolerated. Fibres that add water to the bowel motions Benefiber (guar gum) Metamucil Original Texture Regular Flavour Powder (Psyllium husk powder) Normacol Plus (sterculia & frangula bark)	Drying the hair with a hair dryer – the hot hair from a standard dryer may be enough to kill the nits but some skill is required to avoid burning the scalp with the dryer Nits don't survive well away from humans – treat soft toys and bedding as for dust mites For internet information about head lice www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html	GENERAL ANAESTHETICS Avoid the premedication as these agents sometimes cause adverse reactions The gases used for general anaesthetics are usually well tolerated by those with allergies and intolerances			
Sometimes just simple thickening of feeds with some maize cornflour will be enough to help. Mix a tablespoon of cornflour with a cup of water and cook while stirring in a pot and add an amount to formula to make the milk "thicker"	Gold Cross Epsom Salts- recommended dose is on the packet (about 2 teaspoons for adults) Glycerin Suppositories – contain glycerol and suitable for infants, children and adults as a temporary measure Prune juice is not suitable to give to those with food intolerance as it contains high levels of natural chemicals that cause reactions in	WORMS Combantrin Tablets — these are orange but provide the least dose of problem chemical of all the available choices. Remember to treat all the family and the dogs and cats simultaneously and pin the tops and bottoms of pyjamas to avoid the cycle of bottom to hand to mouth	Compare prices for medications at on line pharmacies www.cincottachemist.com.au www.epharmacy.com.au www.pharmacydirect.com.au			

reinfection.

most people with food

intolerance