

# **COSMETICS EUROPE RECOMMENDATION N° 27**

## **Allergy Alert Test for hair colouring products**

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The European Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR, EC 1223/2009) requires warnings and use instructions to appear on the label of cosmetic products containing certain ingredients like hair dyes. Furthermore, it recommends providing precautionary information and promoting risk management measures as means of sharing important extra guidance with product users. The Cosmetic Products Regulation does not, however, provide any legally mandatory texts for additional instructions. The legal requirements and additional warnings and use instructions were the subject of CE Recommendations No [24A](#) and [24B](#). These two recommendations are still current and should thus be consulted complementary to this CE recommendation.

It has been common practice for many years for manufacturers of hair colorants to label hair colouring (permanent and semi-permanent) products with warnings highlighting the possibility of experiencing an allergic reaction and the need to perform an Allergy Alert Test before each colouring. However, no *harmonised procedure* and wording has been in place to describe the steps for performing an Allergy Alert Test prior to product application.

In this context, Cosmetics Europe believes that the industry could further proactively support consumers and hair professionals in avoiding allergic reactions to hair colouring products, by means of voluntary harmonisation of Allergy Alert Test procedures and instructions.

Therefore, Cosmetics Europe recommends to cosmetics companies marketing hair colouring products to use the harmonised wording and icons specified below in the frame for all the use instructions accompanying products whose primary function is to dye the hair and for which Allergy Alert Test is recommended as an important risk management measure. This recommendation aims to assist consumers and hair professionals by providing clear and consistent instructions on how to perform the Allergy Alert Test.

The exact text of the harmonised use instructions and accompanying icons provided in the frame below should be included or attached to the product. Limited rephrasing of the recommended wording is permissible to allow for appropriate description of the hair dye product components and items needed to prepare the test product.

**Use instructions to be included on or attached to the product as recommended by Cosmetics Europe.**

Allergy alert test must be done 48 hours before each use of the product, even if a hair colouring product has been used before.

Items you need to prepare the mixture\*: *Cotton bud, clean tissues, saucer / small plate (do not use metal objects)\**

Prepare the mixture. With a cotton bud, mix small amounts of agent 1:colourant and agent 2:developer of the same quantity on a saucer/small plate\*.

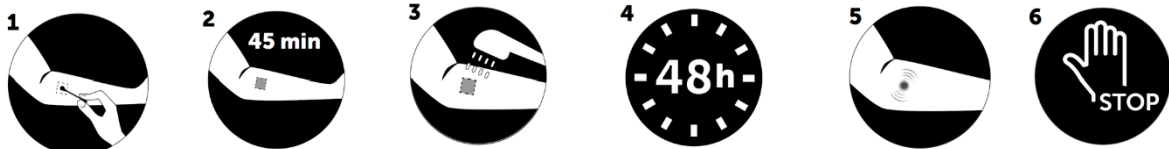
Do not use metal objects. *Carefully reseal the colourant and developer containers\**.

With the cotton bud, apply a pea size of the mixture evenly with a thin layer on an area of 2 by 2 cm on the inner side of the forearm.

Leave the mixture applied for 45 minutes without covering or touching it; avoid contact with clothes; after 45 minutes wash the test area with water and pat dry with a clean tissue.

If you or your client observes any changes to the normal skin appearance, such as itching, redness, swelling on and around the test area during the testing time, or during the following 48hrs, you/your client should rinse off the test area immediately, should do not use the product and should consult a doctor<sup>#</sup>. This test represents an important precaution measure which has proved to be reliable when carried out under the conditions outlined. However, be aware that even if an Allergy Alert Test has been carried out, you may still experience an allergic reaction when you colour your hair. The Allergy Alert Test does not provide a guarantee that allergic reactions will not occur in the future. In case of any concerns or questions please consult a doctor.

*\*wording subject to change according to the items provided by the manufacturer, how the manufacturer named the items, and/or specific product types to be tested e.g. powders; ready to use formulation.*



To download the design files of the above icons, please click [here](#).

#### References

Coenraads et al., 2018 'The Allergy Alert Test: Introduction of a Protocol Suitable to Provide an Alert Signal in p-Phenylenediamine–Allergic Hair Dye Users' *Dermatitis*, Sep/Oct 2018;29(5):250-257.

doi: 10.1097/DER.0000000000000405.