



دائرة الصحة
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



The safe use of cosmetic products

Drug Information Section

You can reach out to us at our toll free number 800 - 424 Sunday to Thursday (7 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
or via email at: DIS@doh.gov.ae

Cosmetics are preparations used to change or enhance the beauty of the skin, hair, nails, lips, and eyes, **example of these products:** are moisturizing products , whitening, anti-wrinkles& anti-aging products, different body part firming products and hair & lashes beauty products.

Fraud in cosmetic products:

Fraud in cosmetic products can be in the composition of the product or in the label information of the product or both.

FRAUD IN COSMETIC PRODUCT COMPOSITION:

- 1.** If the product was adulterated with prohibited substances, or concentrated chemical that can pose serious side effects and health problems.
- 2.** If the product contains impure substances or suspicious substances.
- 3.** If product has been made or stored under inappropriate conditions that lead to contamination of the product with harmful material like bacteria and fungi.
- 4.** If the product's bottle is manufactured wholly or in part of a toxic or harmful substance to human health.
- 5.** If the product contains unsafe coloring materials or additives.
- 6.** If the product contain untested substances used in inappropriate proportions or quantities.



Fraud in the label information of the cosmetic product?



If the label contains fake or misleading data.



If the product's label does not contain name and address of the manufacturer, or inaccurate listing of all ingredients with quantities.



If the cosmetic product package is manufactured or packed in a misleading way to the consumer in a manner that copies a known product.

Selling of Fake cosmetic products have become more prevalent recently due to the vast spread of its sale and promotion through various outlets and in the Internet via social media and mobile applications.



Department of Health - Abu Dhabi effectively monitors the adulterated products identified by international and national health authorities and include them on DoH adulterated products' lists.

These lists are published on DoH website as a tool to warn consumers about the danger of unwise use of products that may put their lives at risk.

You can access the adulterated products lists through the following link:

<https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/publications>

Or you can call the toll free phone number at: **800 424**

Or By E-mail: **DIS@doh.gov.ae**

Notifications and warnings

Adulterated cosmetic products are banned and prohibited as they can pose serious health risks



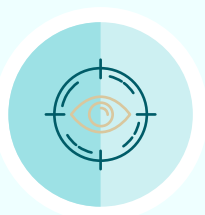
Most of these products manufactured in unhygienic unauthorized laboratories and/or stores.



Different kinds of bacteria can be found in adulterated cosmetic preparations which may cause infections, skin rashes, and allergic reactions. Common type of bacteria that has been found in these products is E. Coli (Escherichia coli) which can cause severe diarrhea, kidney failure, and anemia.



Unsafe level of heavy metals like lead, arsenic, mercury, aluminum, zinc, chromium and iron have been found in most of these products, which may cause serious health problems and severe toxicity due to its accumulation in the vital organs.



Some serious side effects have been reported due to the use of adulterated cosmetics products, which include eye infections, allergic reactions, skin rashes, swollen lips and chemical burns. Additionally, toxic ingredients can cause long-term health problems such as high blood pressure, defects in endocrine glands functions and infertility



The main reason behind adulteration of cosmetic products with chemical substances or medical substances is to obtain faster and better effects.

General Advices



Avoid purchasing products from unreliable or unknown sources

Check the product quality before you use; and make sure to buy product from authorized points of sale. In addition, be alerted when buying products through the internet and social media.



Check the product name

The name of the product should be written in a proper way. It should cover trademark, list of ingredients with amounts, product category and instruction of use.



Check the main product claim

Cosmetics should not contain medical substances and there should be no medical claim to prevent or treat any disease.



Check for product serial number or batch number

Check the batch number which is usually stamped or printed on the outer package.



Check the product Price

Avoid low-priced products to save some of your money, as they might contain dangerous substances that may affect your health.



Read customers online reviews

Read customers reviews, which can be helpful to make good decision before buying any product, but be careful, as some of such reviews may not be true and only made by promoters to sell their products.

The below table list some dangerous ingredients that are commonly added in adulterated cosmetics products:



Adulterated, hidden ingredients

Hydroquinone (other name, such as: 1, 4- Benzenediol. Quinol. Benzene-1. 4-Diol)

Tretinoin (also known as Retinoic acid, Vitamin A acid, all-trans-Retinoic acid, ATRA,Airol, Vesanoid, Retin-A,)

Topical prostaglandin analogues (PGAs) like Bimatoprost, travoprost, latanoprost isopropyl cloprostenate, Bimatoprost travoprost . latanoprost isopropyl cloprostenate



Products categories

- Skin lighting products
- Skin-bleaching products
- Skin Depigmentation products

Topical products for the treatment of acne

Eyelash Boost products, Lashes growth serums, lashes strengthen products



Potential hazardous effects

Cosmetic products adulterated with hydroquinone can cause skin redness, discomfort, skin discoloration, hypersensitivity, increase the risk of skin cancer and the gradual blue-black darkening of the skin.

Cosmetic products adulterated with Tretinoin may damage skin change skin color , cause pain, irritation, itchiness, redness, or swelling at the site of application. It may, also increase sensitivity to sunlight ,causing sunburns.

Prostaglandins are chemical compounds with hormone-like effects. They should be used only under medical supervision. Common side effects of these compounds are:

- Darkening of the skin around the eyes
- Eyelid inflammation
- Burning, stinging, and eye pain
- Darkening of the iris
- Thinning and loss of eyelashes
- Blurred vision
- Drooping eyelids
- Irreversible and often severe dry eye affecting vision quality and ocular comfort

The below table list some dangerous ingredients that are commonly added in adulterated cosmetics products:



Adulterated, hidden ingredients

Formaldehyde, also known as formalin, morbicid acid, methylene oxide, methylaldehyde, and methylene glycol



Products categories

Nail strengtheners & polishes
eyelash glues, hair gels , hair
straightening treatments



Potential hazardous effects

Substance found in some nail strengtheners , nail polishes and hair straightening treatments are toxic substance that carry the following risks:

- It may causes lung, blood, colon, stomach and skin cancer
- It causes severe sensitivity in the scalp, especially in children
- May cause hair damage and hair loss
- It may lead to burning of the scalp and skin infections
- Inhalation of vapors caused by formalin may cause respiratory problems