

What is lanolin?

Lanolin has been used for over 8000 years. The ancient Egyptians used to put blocks of it on their head, which would melt in the sun and provide soft smooth skin. Directions for its use appear in medical and pharmaceutical texts throughout the last 2000 years.

The term lanolin comes from the Latin *lana* for wool and *oleum* for oil, though chemically it is a wax rather than oil. It is the secretions from the sebaceous glands of sheep, which protect the fleece against rain and other elements.

Lanolin comes from the fleece of sheep after shearing. No harm comes to the sheep in extracting lanolin. One hundred pounds of wool yield about two to four pounds of lanolin. It is a natural and renewable raw material not a processed synthetic compound.

Lanolin is not a generic material. There are many refinements of lanolin from very crude grade used to coat machine parts to the ultrapure medical grade lanolin called LANSINOH®.

We have a worldwide exclusive agreement with the largest supplier on lanolin in the world. They bought the second largest company, Westbrook Lanolin, who are acknowledged as the worldwide specialist in medical grade lanolins. LANSINOH® is made from their highest grade lanolin, created by a patented process.

Are some people allergic to lanolin?

People are allergic to lanolin, it is very rare, but it does exist. The allergen thought to be responsible for sensitivity to lanolin is present in the free alcohol portion of the lanolin. LANSINOH® reduces the free alcohol portion to below 1.5% to reduce the risk of reactions. *Sin* is the Latin for without and *OH* is the chemical symbol for alcohol, which gives us *lan-sin-oh*, lanolin without alcohol. Other grades of medical lanolin are at least 3% of free alcohols – twice the level of LANSINOH®.

What is commonly referred to as a wool allergy is most often a contact dermatitis or surface skin reaction to dyes in the wool fibre or the fibre itself. The caution that sensitivity to wool means one will have a reaction to lanolin is without scientific base.

Does lanolin contain pesticides and detergents?

Sheep are dipped in pesticides during their life to protect them from various insects and diseases. Some of these pesticides remain on the fleece in the wool grease that will become lanolin. LANSINOH® only uses Australian and New Zealand grease as it is the best quality with low levels of pesticides. Refining of the product further removes the pesticides and other chemicals. LANSINOH® is tested for over 40 individual pesticides. Our individual levels for key pesticides are lower than our competitors. We meet 1 PPM total pesticides (1 part per million).

The fleece is washed with detergents during the processing of wool and to separate the wool wax. This washing can leave detergent residues. LANSINOH® is refined until the detergent residues are removed. LANSINOH® is the only company in the world that tests its lanolin product for detergent residues.



Does lanolin contain preservatives?

When a wax or fat is in contact with air it can go rancid or oxidise. Many lanolin products add BHT - Butyl Hydroxy Toluene, as an antioxidant. It is added to increase shelf-life. You can heat or do other things to lanolin and the BHT will protect it.

There is increasing concern over BHT use. General medical studies have linked BHT to aggressive behaviour and tumour growth. **LANSINOH® is very concerned about the risks of BHT and does not add BHT to our product.** LANSINOH® is the *only* medical grade lanolin that is used in a breastfeeding product that does not contain BHT.

Further information on BHT see

<http://chemistry.about.com/library/weekly/aa082101a.htm> this gives details on BHT and why it is used and lots of references

<http://chemistry.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.feingold.org/bht.html>

This summarises some key papers

Is LANSINOH® safe for baby?

Anything that goes on the mother's nipple is likely to get into the baby's mouth. LANSINOH® is non-toxic and contains no chemicals or preservatives, so is the safest nipple preparation available. It does not need to be removed before nursing. Read the labels of other products – would you like those ingredients in your mouth, let alone a baby's? Babies will react strongly to smell. LANSINOH® is odour-free, so baby only smells his/her mother. LANSINOH® is also taste free. Smell and taste other products!

LANSINOH® puts purity above price.

