

**Sodium Lauryl Sulfate** – *Industrial cleaners, Toothpaste, Cosmetics, Soaps, Shampoo, Bubble bath, Bath and Shower Gels, Facial cleansers, Car wash soaps, Antibiotic tablets, Mascara*

It can produce allergic sensitivity reactions, may be drying and irritating to the skin and is moderately toxic by ingestion, it is also reported to be the most common cause of eye irritation by commercial shampoos. It is more toxic when ingested than when taken intravenously. It stays on the hair log after the shampoo etc. Has been rinsed off and over a period of time strips the hair of acids, amino acids and moisture. Listed as having teratogenic properties (DPIM). Sodium lauryl sulphate from shampoo can cause cataracts and it does not have to come in contact with the eye for this to happen as it readily penetrates skin and travels to the eyes and other organs. Ingested orally or applied topically it accumulates in and damages the liver and damages the stratum corneum. It remains in the body for approximately five days after being applied to skin. In toothpaste it can cause mouth ulcers. Retained for a long time in the tissue it can penetrate into the eyes and also into systemic tissue e.g. brain, liver, kidneys, etc through the skin. Causes eye irritation, skin rash, hair loss and allergic reactions. Infants and children are at particular risk as the tissue of young eyes may be more susceptible to alteration and because their skin is very absorbent. It causes improper eye development in babies and children as it affects the protein structure of the eyeball and can cause blindness.

Combined with any of the following chemicals it causes nitrosating agents to form:

1-bromo-2-nitropropane 1,3-diol  
Cocoyl Sarcosine  
Diethanolamine (DEA)  
Formaldehyde  
Hydrolyzed animal protein  
Imidazolidinyl urea  
Lauryl sarcosine  
Monethanolamine (MEA)  
Quarternium-7, 15, 31, 60, etc  
Sodium methyl cocoyl taurate  
Triethanolamine (TEA)

Human toxicity for both nitrate and nitrite is well proven, nitrite is the more toxic but nitrate converts readily in the human body to nitrite. It has been estimated that between 50 and 100 micrograms of nitrosamines are applied to the skin when using shampoo, etc that contains nitrates. To consume the same amount of this carcinogen you would have to eat over 1 lb of bacon.

### **Teratogenic**

Relating to, or causing developmental malformations.

### **DPIM**

7<sup>th</sup> Edition of "Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials".

Source: *Silent Killers – More than you paid for! And other chemicals found in personal care products – Your Body – Your Health – Your Responsibility* by PM Taubert

First published in May 2001. Published by CompSafe Consultancy, Murray Bridge, South Australia.

Phone +61 8 8531 1118 – (M) +61 41 784 7535 email [ptcompsafe@iprimus.com.au](mailto:ptcompsafe@iprimus.com.au) – ISBN 0 9585420 3 1

Peter has given Marilyn Vine permission to reproduce this information.