

NA71: Propolis

CAS#: 9009-62-5

Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to propolis. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching and fluid-filled blisters.

Where is propolis found?

Propolis is a wax-like resinous substance produced by the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). Propolis is considered a traditional medicine by many and is used for a variety of conditions, including inflammations, sore throat, viral diseases, ulcers, burn and wound care, to promote heart health, cataracts, acne, asthma, arthritis, boils, bleeding gums, bedsores and blisters, burning tongue, callused feet, common colds, corns, diaper rash, diarrhea, eczema, flu, female complaints, gastritis, gout, hay-fever, hair loss, insect bites, rhinitis, earache, inflammation of the prostate, moles, psoriasis, swollen glands, tendonitis, and warts. Depending upon its composition, propolis may also be used as an antibiotic, antifungal, antimicrobial, and an immunomodulator. Recent dental research indicates that it may protect against caries and canker sores, and has been used for canal debridement in endodontic procedures.

How can you avoid contact with propolis?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- Bee bread
- Bee glue
- CCRIS 8561
- Hive dross

What are some products that may contain propolis?

- Cosmetics:
 - Lip balm/lipstick
 - Lip liner
- Cough Syrups
- Food:
 - Honey
- Gum
- Lotions
- Lozenges
- Ointments:
 - Lip protectant
 - Cold sore treatment
- Pills
- Toothpaste
- Vitamins

*For additional information about products that might contain **propolis**, go to the Household Product Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.