

NA06: 4-Chloro-3,5-Xylenol (PCMX) CAS#: 88-04-0

Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to 4-chloro-3,5-xylenol (PCMX). 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 4-chloro-3,5-xylenol (PCMX) found?

PCMX is a halogenated phenol used as an additive (preservative) and as an active antimicrobial agent and is particularly effective against a wide variety of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. PCMX is often used in hand cleaners, surgical scrubs, pre-operative skin disinfecting formulations, and medical topical products such as electrode pastes and topical medicaments. It is also used as a preservative in cosmetics, hand creams, and metal-working fluids.

How can you avoid contact with 4-chloro-3,5-xylenol (PCMX)?

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

- 2-Chloro-5-hydroxy-m-xylene
- 2-Chloro-m-xylenol
- 3,5-Xylenol, 4-chloro-
- A13-08632
- BRN 1862539
- Chloro-xylenol
- Chloroxylenolum
- p-Chloro-m-xylenol
- 2-Chloro-5-hydroxy-1,3-dimethylbenzene
- 2-chloro-5-hydroxy-1,3-dimethylbenzene
- 4-06-00-03152 (Beilstein Handbook Reference)
- 4-chlor-1-hydroxy-3,5-dimethyl benzene
- Chloro-1-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylbenzene
- EPA Pesticide Chemical Code 086801
- 2-chloro-5-hydroxy-m-xylene
- 3,5-Dimethyl-4-chlorophenol
- 4-Chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol
- Benzytol
- Caswell No. 218
- Chloroxylenol
- EINECS 201-793-8
- Phenol, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethyl-

What are some products that may contain 4-chloro-3,5-xylenol (PCMX)?

- Creams:
 - Sorbolene cream
- Hand Cleaners/Antimicrobial Soaps
- Medical Topicals:
 - Electrode paste
 - Medicated vaseline
- Metal Working Fluids
- Surgical Scrubs

*For additional information about products that might contain **4-chloro-3,5-xylenol (PCMX)**, 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.