

EFFECTS OF MERCURY IN SKIN-LIGHTENING AGENTS



What is Mercury in cosmetics ?

Mercury is a toxic heavy metal that has been found in some skin lightening products, despite being banned or strictly regulated in many countries. The use of mercury in these products poses significant health risks, not only to the individuals applying them but also to others through environmental contamination.

Environmental and public health risks

Mercury from skin lightening products can contaminate water systems, affecting wildlife and public health.

TO AVOID RISKS

- Buy from reputable sources with proper labeling.
- Steer clear of products listing mercury or related compounds.
- Seek professional advice for safe skin treatments.
- Use proper hazardous waste disposal for mercury products.

Health Risks of Mercury Exposure

- Pregnant women and women of childbearing age should avoid exposure to mercury. Unborn babies, infants, and children can be harmed by small amounts of mercury.
- Prolonged exposure can impair kidney function.
- mercury is a neurotoxin that can cause tremors, memory loss, and cognitive impairment.
- It can pass from the mother's milk while breastfeeding causing harm to the baby's brain development.
- Exposure weakens the immune system, increasing vulnerability to infections.

