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CHEMICALS IN COSMETICS: ARE THEY SAFE?

There are many chemical compounds used for the production of cosmetics. Cosmetics are made from a range of ingredients which are the so called industrial chemicals. Industrial chemicals may be synthetic chemicals or naturally occurring processed chemicals. Let's talk about some of them:

Water. Water is primarily used as a solvent in cosmetics and personal care products in which it dissolves many of the ingredients that impart skin benefits, such as conditioning agents and cleansing agent.

Formaldehyde. Formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing preservatives (FRPs) are used in many personal care products, particularly in shampoos and liquid baby soaps. It is found in very low amount in many consumer products like cosmetics and personal care products.

Emollient. Emollients soften the skin by preventing water loss. They are used in producing of lipsticks, lotions and other cosmetics. A number of different natural and synthetic chemicals work as emollients, including beeswax, olive oil, coconut oil and lanolin, as well as petrola-

tum (petroleum jelly), mineral oil, glycerine, zinc oxide, butyl stearate and diglycol laurate.

Lanolin. Lanolin is a thick substance derived from the sebaceous gland of sheep. It is a thick moisturizing agent. It is a common additive in cosmetic products for the moisturizing of skin, hair and nails. It works as an emulsion blending with any other cosmetic product.

ALS-Ammonium lauryl sulphate. Ammonium lauryl sulfate (ALS) operate as an anionic surfactant avoiding surface tension in liquids. Due to this property it is used in cosmetics like cleansing agents, hair shampoos and in bathing agents. These ALS are irritants to eyes and has very low acute toxicity.

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DANGEROUS COSMETICS

Although the beauties of previous eras did not have access to plastic surgery, they risked no less than our contemporaries because of deadly cosmetics and procedures that crippled women.

1) Belladonna

The belladonna plant is poisonous from the root to the last leaflet. Women used belladonna juice to give their eyes an irresistible sheen. Shining and bottomless eyes gradually lost their sight, and then there was complete blindness.

2) Arsenicum

Pharmacists of the XIX century used small doses of poison for medicinal purposes. Arsenicum tablets were prescribed to even out skin tone, get rid of thinness, due to the development of toxic goiter.

3) Hydrargyrum

Pharmacists used hydrargyrum to prepare anti-inflammatory drugs. A hydrargyrum ointment from freckles was banned only in the 70s of the twentieth century.

4) Plumbum

The beauties of the Middle Ages smeared their faces with white lead. The skin of women really acquired a porcelain hue. And at the same time, aristocrats refined received the remaining symptoms of lead poisoning: thinness, disorientation in space, lack of appetite.

5) Radium