



Pharmacy

Fire Safety Advice for Emollients

Introduction

Emollients are an important and effective treatment for chronic dry skin conditions and you should continue to use the product as advised by your doctor. There are emollients that contain paraffin and emollients that do not contain paraffin.

Risk of severe and fatal burns with emollients

There is a fire risk with all paraffin-containing emollients, regardless of paraffin concentration, and it also cannot be excluded with paraffin-free emollients. A similar risk may apply for other products which are applied to the skin over large body areas, or in large volumes, for repeated use for more than a few days.

Clothing or fabric, such as bedding or bandages that have been in contact with an emollient or emollient-treated skin can rapidly ignite.

Be aware that washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up, but not totally remove it.

It is very important that you do the following:

- Do not smoke, use naked flames (or be near people who are smoking or using naked flames) or go near to anything else which may cause a fire whilst these products are in contact with your clothes, dressing or bandages
- Tell your GP, nurse or pharmacist if you normally smoke. They will offer help and advice to stop smoking
- Show this leaflet to other members of your household or to your carers
- Ensure that your clothes and bedding are changed regularly.

About this leaflet:

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email pals@dchft.nhs.uk



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