

CAREFULLY CURATED. CONSCIOUSLY CRAFTED.
NO COMPROMISES

Toxic Twenty List

BLK + GRN

At BLK + GRN, we never bring in junk—only joy.

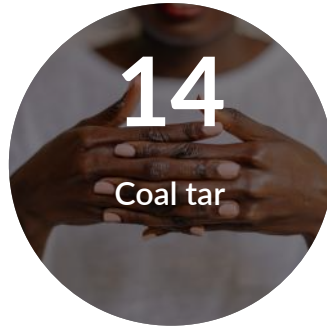
If it's not sustainably made, plant based, or cruelty free, we don't put it in our homes, on our melanin or otherwise allow it to clog our self care.

There are currently over 1,500 harmful chemicals banned—or highly restricted—by the European Union (EU). Yet, in the U.S., the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has only banned 11 toxins in our personal care products and cosmetics. We've compiled a list of the most harmful offenders backed up by most leading regulating agencies and the Environmental Working Group.

As part of our commitment to help you achieve a holistic lifestyle, we thoughtfully select the most nourishing, cruelty-free products from Black artisans around the world.

You will never find the following ingredients in any products on BLK + GRN.

CONTENT





1. TRICLOSAN AND TRICLOCARBAN

WHAT

A microbacterial ingredient

PURPOSE

Help reduce or prevent bacterial contamination

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Endocrine disruptor (chemical that negatively impacts hormones), Enables bacteria to become antibiotic-resistant, and Contributes to reproductive toxicity”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Most products labeled as “antibacterial” or “odor fighting”

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes, but in select products



2. BHA (BUTYLATED HYDROXYANISOLE)

WHAT

Synthetic antioxidant derived from petroleum

PURPOSE

Waxy solid preservative used in cosmetics

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Endocrine disruptor (chemical that negatively impacts hormones), Possibly carcinogenic (cancer-causing) in lip sticks”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Highest concentrations found in lip stick and eye shadow

Not to be confused with Beta Hydroxy Acids (sometimes labeled “BHA”)

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



3. BHT (BUTYLATED HYDROXYTOLUENE)

WHAT

Synthetic antioxidant derived from petroleum

PURPOSE

Preservative from toluene (also on our list)

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

Can negatively impact lung tissue, kidney and liver, May cause an allergic reaction to the skin, Interferes with hormone function

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- Moisturizer
- Lip Stick

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes

4. FORMALDEHYDE (AND FORMALDEHYDE “RELEASERS”)

WHAT

Colorless, flammable gas

PURPOSE

Helps prevent contamination in skincare products

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Known carcinogen (cancer causing), Skin and eye irritant, May trigger allergies”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- Nail Polish
- Hair Dye
- Eyelash Falseies
- Shampoo

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Quaternium-15
- Diazolidinyl urea
- DMDM hydantoin bronopol
- Limidazolidinyl urea
-

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



5. PHTHALATES

WHAT

A Solvent

PURPOSE

Promote flexibility and reduce brittleness May be used as fragrance

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“May adversely impact the respiratory system, Endocrine disruptor (chemical that negatively impacts hormones), Reproductive and developmental toxicant”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

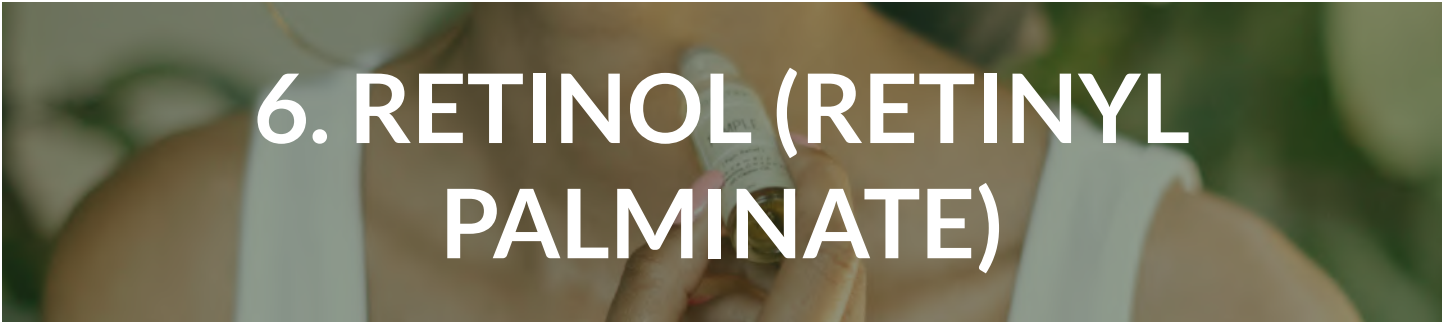
- Nail Polish
- Synthetic fragrance
- Hair spray

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Bisphenol A (BPA) used in most plastics

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes, in select products, these phthalates are banned:BBP,DEHP,DBP,DIBP



6. RETINOL (RETINYL PALMATE)

WHAT

Synthetic Vitamin A, sometimes derived from animals

PURPOSE

“ Stimulate collagen production and Help treat acne”

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Endocrine disruptor (chemical that negatively impacts hormones), Possibly carcinogenic (cancer-causing) in lip sticks”

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Toxic to the reproductive system, May speed the development of skin tumors (especially to sun-exposed skin)”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Cosmetics

Cream

Perfume

Hair Dye

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- 3-Dehydroretinol
- Antixerophthalmic Vitamin
- Axerophtholum
- Dehydroretinol
- Retinyl Palmitate
- Vitamin A Palmitate
- Vitamine Liposoluble
- Vitaminum A

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



7. SYNTHETIC FRAGRANCE

WHAT

Can be made of many harmful chemicals (and commonly contains toxic phthalates)

PURPOSE

Deodorant, Masking

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

May cause allergic reactions, Endocrine disruptor (chemical that negatively impacts hormones), May trigger migraines and exacerbate asthma

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Perfume
Skin care
Makeup
Hair care
Deodorant

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Parfum
- Paraffin (wax)
- Natural Flavors

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

No, but at least 26 of the potentially 1,500+ chemicals considered as “fragrance” is required to be labeled on products



8. HYDROQUINONE

WHAT

Skin bleaching agent, fragrance or hair colorant

PURPOSE

Reduce skin pigmentation

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Skin allergy, May cause the skin condition ochronosis, Cytotoxic (may kill healthy cells and chromosomes if overused),Linked to some skin cancers,Potential carcinogen (cancer-causing chemical) “

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Lightening skin care products

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

Tocopheryl Acetate

Available in over-the-counter products and prescribed treatments

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



9. RESORCINOL

WHAT

Hair colorant made from the petrochemical benzene

PURPOSE

“Used to add color, Disinfectant, Anti-itch agent”

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Possibly toxic to the immune system Hormone disruptor (thyroid or “beauty gland”) “

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Tire products

Hair Color

Bleaching Products

Some prescription and OTC acne treatments

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Resorcin
- m-Dihydroxybenzene 1
- 3-Benzenediol 1
- 3-Dihydroxybenzene
- 3-Hydroxyphenol
- m-Hydroquinone
- m-Benzenediol

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

No, but concentration is limited and requires a warning label



10. PARABENS

WHAT

Preservative

PURPOSE

Prevent bacteria growth

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Hormone disruptor, Dangerously mimics estrogen, Parabens are commonly found in tumors related to breast cancer

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Facial moisturizer
Fragrance product
Shaving cream
Hair care product

Products labeled as “anti-aging” *(However, we at BLK + GRN believe that aging gracefully is something to be proud of.)*

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

Methyl-5
Propyl-
Butyl

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



11. PETROLEUM

WHAT

Crude oil or “fossil fuel”

PURPOSE

“Hair and skin conditioning, Skin protectant “

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Linked to certain cancers when contaminated with PAHS (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons),Skin irritant, Allergy trigger, Block pores; increase risk of acne”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Laundry detergent

Shampoo

Conditioner

Lotion

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Petrolatum
- Petroleum jelly
- Paraffin oil
- Minerol oil

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes

12. HEAVY METALS

WHAT

Metallic elements denser than water

PURPOSE

Contaminant

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

Classified as a human carcinogen (cancer causing chemical) by most leading health agencies and organizations

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Lip Product

Whitening toothpaste

Eyeliner

Nail color

Foundation

Sunscreen

Moisturizer

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Lead (lead acetate)
- Mercury (thimerosal, merthiolate)
- Aluminum
- Chromium
- Mercury
- Zinc
- Iron

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes, select metals in most cosmetics

13. METHYLISOTHIAZOLINONE (MIT)

WHAT

Preservative

PURPOSE

Biocide used to prevent bacterial growth

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Skin sensitizer Eye and lung irritant May be neurotoxic (damaging to the brain or peripheral nervous system) Allergy trigger”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Shampoo | Laundry detergent |
| Conditioner | Liquid hand soap |
| Hair Color | Dish soap |
| Body Wash | Bubble Bath |

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- Methylchloroisothiazolinone (CMIT or CMI)
- Benzisothiazolinone
- 2-methyl-4-isothiazoline-3-one
- Neolone 950 preservative
- MI
- OriStar MIT
- Microcare MT

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



14. COAL TAR

WHAT

Liquid by-product of the petroleum process

PURPOSE

Add color to cosmetics

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

Classified as a human carcinogen (cancer causing) by most leading health agencies and organizations

COMMONLY FOUND IN

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Cream | Dandruff Shampoo |
| Ointment | Lip Stick |
| Soap | |

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Aminophenol
- Diaminobenzene
- Phenylenediamine
- Carbo-Cort
- Tar Solution USP
- Aerosol
- Estar (skin treatment)
- Sometimes listed as “FD&C” or “D&C” followed by a color name and 5-digit number

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



15. OXYBENZONE

WHAT

Mineral commonly found in chemical sunscreen

PURPOSE

Filter harmful UVA/UVB rays

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Hormone disruptor, Can trigger allergic reactions, May contribute to endometriosis in women”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Sunscreen

BB Cream

Moisturizer

Lip Balm

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

No, but more than 0.05% must be labeled



16. TOLUENE

WHAT

Found naturally in crude oil (petroleum)

PURPOSE

Used as a solvent

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Toluene vapor can negatively impact the central nervous system, Irritate the skin, Possible link to certain blood cancers (malignant lymphoma), Exposure to vapors during pregnancy may cause developmental damage in the fetus”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Most nail products like polish and remover
Hair Dye

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Methylbenzene
- Toluol

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

No, but the use of it is restricted

17. TRIPHENYL PHOSPHATE (TPHP)

WHAT

Chemical commonly used in flame retardant

PURPOSE

Make nail polish flexible and used to increase plasticity

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Hormone disruptor, Linked to fertility issues, Can trigger obesity”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Most nail products like polish and remover

COMMONLY FOUND IN

- v

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



18. SELENIUM SULFIDE

WHAT

An anti-infective, inorganic salt

PURPOSE

Anti-dandruff properties, Slow the growth of yeast, Hair conditioning ingredient

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“Possible carcinogen (cancer-causing), May cause respiratory damage, Environmental toxin”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Anti-dandruff shampoo and treatments

OTC and prescribed scalp treatments

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Selenium Disulfide

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes



19. PROGESTERONE

WHAT

Steroid hormone

PURPOSE

Help condition the skin

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

Possible carcinogen (*cancer-causing*) Human developmental toxin

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Shampoo

Conditioner

Moisturizer

Astringents

Anti-Wrinkle Face Creams

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

Yes

20. PARABENS DIOXIN (OR CHLORINATED DIOXIN)

WHAT

By-product of a bleaching or waste-burning process

PURPOSE

Product whitener

WHY WE KNOW ITS SHADY

“May cause reproductive damage and birth defects,Linked to certain forms of cancer,Environmental pollutant”

COMMONLY FOUND IN

Cotton balls
Facial Tissue
Toilet Tissue
Sanitary pads
Tampons

SOMETIMES LISTED AS

- Not commonly listed on labels; Look for paper products labeled Totally Chlorine-Free (TCF) to be safe

IS IT BANNED IN THE UK?

No, but the closely-related triclosan has been banned from antibacterial products