



Patient Information Leaflet

Epoxy resin

Epoxy resins are plastics, used mainly as adhesives in the industrial setting but also by DIY enthusiasts. They are found in two-component glues such as Araldite™, where a curing agent has to be added to the epoxy part of the glue to harden it.

Fully cured epoxy resin is non-sensitising, so it is only when using the glue before it has hardened that problems arise. Usually the rash is on the hands. If in contact with uncured epoxy resins at work, fumes may cause an airborne rash on the face.

Patients should avoid two-component glues or wear nitrile gloves, which prevent the penetration of epoxies (other rubber, latex and neoprene gloves are inadequate). Some one-component glues contain epoxy compounds.

Epoxies are also used in:

- Production of electrical encapsulators, insulation and wires
- Production of orthopaedic prostheses, dentures, pacemakers and spectacles
- Production of casting moulds and in casting and laminating resin
- Production of glass fibre-strengthened plastic parts e.g. models, tool making
- In textile and paper processing e.g. computer paper
- In leather dyeing and tanning
- Surface coatings e.g. for floors
- Paints and inks
- Product finishers
- PVC products
- Some vinyl gloves
- Handbags
- Plastic necklaces
- Preparation of electron microscopy specimens