

AFFINAGE

PROFESSIONAL

The Sulfate Story

Do Affinage products contain sulfates? Yes.
Are they harmful to me or the environment? No.

Much of the information today about sulfates is misinformation in order to create panic in consumers. Due to the technological age we live in it means that information is more freely passed around (usually via the internet), it does not necessarily mean it is the truth. As with everything there are positives and negatives and there will always be people who believe one version of events over another, it does not mean that either one is right or wrong. We simply have to make the decision for ourselves based on the facts.

The facts as we know them:

Surfactant is a word for the ingredient generally used in cleansing and rinse off products that creates the lather when you add them to water (shampoo).

FACT 1: These ingredients are necessary in order to provide the product with the ability to clean and maintain your hair.

There are 3 main surfactants used in shampoo's, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS), Sodium Laureth Sulfate/ Sodium Lauryl Ether Sulfate (SLES) and Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate (ALS). None of which are dangerous in cosmetic products as determined by many cosmetic governing bodies in Australia and overseas, including the Personal Care Council (previously known as CTFA – Cosmetic, Toiletries and Fragrance Association). Affinage shampoo's also contain a less commonly used primary surfactant, MEA Lauryl Sulfate (MEA) which is milder than any of the 3 surfactants listed above.

SLS does have close links with SLES but is usually stronger and therefore more likely to cause irritation and reactions in people with sensitive skin. Quite often SLS and SLES are confused with each other and reports can misrepresent the facts. However, both SLS and SLES were reviewed in 1983 by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review Panel (CIRP) and found to be safe.

FACT 2: There is no evidence to confirm that surfactants can cause cancer (carcinogens), as can be claimed by some emails, websites and media releases.

All sulfates are naturally derived, however, ALS, MEA and SLES are generally the more accepted ingredients in shampoo as they are gentler and less irritating.

FACT 3: Affinage shampoo's only contain ALS, MEA or SLES.

If it is suspected that an Affinage product is the cause of such an irritation or allergic reaction* use of the product should be discontinued until the cause of the reaction can be established.

FACT 4: Surfactants can be the cause of irritation and allergies in some people but are not usually the culprit, it can be just as common for people to react to colour or fragrance.

*It is always recommended that a test patch be done, according to Affinage guidelines, especially on people with extreme allergic reactions.

Affinage Skin Sensitivity Test

Although rare, allergic reactions can occur in individuals who have had no previous reactions. It is therefore recommended that a skin sensitivity test be completed 24 to 48 hours prior to the application or use of Affinage products.

Apply product (for hair colours refer to mixing guidelines) to a clean, dry patch of skin on the inside of the elbow or behind the ear. Allow to dry and preferably leave uncovered and undisturbed for 24 to 48 hours. If during this period any irritation, stinging, swelling, burning or redness should occur the test area should be washed off immediately and the product not be used. This test represents a reasonable precaution but an allergic reaction may still occur. Should the individual experience a reaction Affinage recommends consultation with a Medical Practitioner or Dermatologist.

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