

Latex Allergy

What Is Latex?

Latex is a protein found in the sap of a rubber tree grown in Africa and Southeast Asia. The term also refers to natural rubber products made from that sap.

Many everyday products contain latex, such as:

- Balloons
- Erasers
- Condoms and diaphragms
- Rubber household gloves
- Medical gloves
- Catheters
- Dental products (wedges, orthodontic rubber bands)
- Elastic in clothing
- Rubber balls
- Bandages (adhesives)
- Foam mattresses and pillows
- Rubber bands (minor source)

If you have a latex allergy, you may have an allergic reaction if you come in contact with latex. You may come into contact in different ways. You may have allergic reactions by breathing in latex fibers in the air. You can have allergic reactions if latex touches your skin. You may have an allergic reaction to some fruits that cross-react with latex.

Synthetic latex, found in latex paint, does not come from the sap of a rubber tree. Synthetic latex does not cause latex allergy symptoms.

Other latex products:

Household items = Airbeds, toothbrush, rubberized raincoats, elastic (in waist bands, socks and underwear), rubber boots, plastic bags, things with rubber handles, gloves (cleaning, rubberized gardening, etc.) and many baby toys.

School/office items = Erasers, rubber bands, duct tape, adhesives in self-sealing envelopes, rubber buttons and switches on electronic devices.

Sports = Rubber-studded flooring, balls, swimming items.

Health and personal care = Medical gloves, diaphragms, catheters, contraceptive sponges, eyelash curler, waterproof mascara, false eyelashes, adhesive bandage, rubber pants, sanitary napkins, crutches, blood-pressure monitoring cuffs, wheel chair cushions and tires.