ACRYLATE

also called...many related names, such as ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, and 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

What is it?

Acrylates are used to make strong glues or to mold into plasticized shapes. Acrylates are produced from a chemical monomer that is a powder, liquid, gel, or paste. This monomer combines and hardens during a process called polymerization or curing. It is the monomer that can sensitize. Some sensitizer may remain after self-cured acrylates harden, but it is less likely to be present after ultraviolet-, anaerobic-, or heat-curing.

Where might it be found?

Rubber coatings
Solvents
Splints
Television manufacture
Textile coatings and sizings
Ultraviolet cured glues, inks, paint
Water purification
Wig fixing adhesive
Windshield repair
Wood lacquer
Wound spray dressing

How to avoid it:

Acrylic monomer penetrates rubber gloves within 60 seconds. Two pairs of Neoprene or polyvinyl alcohol gloves may protect for a few minutes. For several hours’ protection, wear Silver Shield/4H plastic polymer gloves (www.allerd.com, 800-365-6868 or www.northsafety.com, 800-430-4110), Barrier Chemical Resistant Gloves (www.ansellpro.com, 800-800-0444), or polyvinyl alcohol gloves (www.grainger.com or www.airgas.com).

Dentists may use zinc phosphate or zinc oxide cement to avoid acrylates. Acrylate dentures can be boiled in the mold to reduce allergens. Or substitute prostheses made of thermoplastic nylon, enterephthalate, or polyurethane. Substitute hearing aids made of silicone or polyamide nylon. Instead of acrylic fingernails, use preformed plastic nails or silk wrap with cyanoacylate glue if you test negative to it.

**Tell your dentist and manicurist about this allergy.**