
COSMETIC PRODUCTS FOR BABIES

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ARE THERE RISKS FOR BABIES?

Certain cosmetic products are specifically designed to meet the hygiene and skin care requirements of babies. The products are essentially hygiene products (shampoos and bath products), lotions and wipes (for the face and certain parts of the body, particularly after a diaper change), and skin care products (moisturizing creams for the face and body).

The skin of a non-premature baby is a very effective cutaneous barrier whose permeability is not markedly different from that of the adult skin. The current international cosmetic regulations therefore do not define specific measures different from those applicable to adults for the assessment of the safety of cosmetic products for babies. However, recommendations relating to the evaluation of cosmetic products for infants aged less than 3 years were formulated by the French authorities in 2010.

These cosmetic products have been the subject of particular attention and intensified vigilance of the numerous international competent authorities for many years.

WHY ARE L'ORÉAL PRODUCTS FOR BABIES SAFE?

We never compromise on the quality and safety of our products for all consumers and babies are the subject of particular attention.

More than 15 years ago, we set up a specific formulation charter for products for babies. The charter very strictly controls the composition, packaging and specific safety evaluation program for ingredients and products intended for babies. The charter, which relates to products for infants aged less than 3 years, is markedly stricter than the current international regulatory requirements applicable to cosmetic products and, in addition, imposes compliance with certain formulation principles:

- The ingredients widely used for products intended for babies are always to be preferred and certain ingredients are prohibited.
- Preservatives, when absolutely indispensable to ensure the microbiological protection of products, are selected on the basis of their high tolerability from a very limited list.
- For products intended for the buttocks, which remain confined and in contact with the skin over a long period, even more stringent safety precautions and restrictions on the choice and concentrations of the ingredients that may be used are imposed.

Application of the in-house charter, which incorporates a very complete safety assessment program, consisting of several stages in adults and then infants aged less than 3 years, ensures a very high safety level for young consumers under normal conditions of use.

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