EPOXY

also called... diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A, Bisphenol A, DGEBA epoxy resin, phenol novolate epoxy resin, Bisphenol F, or epichlorohydrin.

What is it?
The information provided in the Allergen Information Sheets is not intended to be relied upon as medical or legal opinion, nor should it replace the considered judgment of a licensed professional with respect to particular patients, procedures, or practices. In addition, legal and medical standards can vary from one jurisdiction to another and are subject to change as new rules take effect and/or new information, materials, and methods become available. Thus, neither the American Contact Dermatitis Society (ACDS) nor individual contributors validate the accuracy or sufficiency of the information provided, nor do they make any warranty, guarantee, or other representation, express or implied, with respect to its fitness for any particular purpose.

Epoxy resins are man-made chemicals for producing glues and plastics. Usually they require two parts—a monomer unit that becomes cross-linked when a hardener is added. For most epoxies, epichlorohydrin is mixed with bisphenol A. Once it is hardened, epoxy is less likely to produce allergy. Sometimes, however, cured resin retains uncured molecules that produce a reaction.

Where might it be found?
- Adhesives, glues, sealers
- Aircraft assembly, adhesives
- Anticorrosion protection (e.g. oil drilling platform)
- Appliance primers, finishes
- Artist, potter, sculptor materials
- Auto tool and dye casting
- Automobile plastics, primers
- Bikes
- Boat varnish, protective coats
- Bookbinding
- Bottle caps
- Cabinetmaking
- Can and drum linings
- Cement waterproofing
- Circuit board assembly
- Coil coatings
- Concrete crack filler
- Construction work
- Dental bonding agents
- Electric encapsulators, motors
- Electrical condensers, devices
- Electrical insulation, tape
- Electron microscopy prep
- Eyeglass frames
- Fiberglass manufacture, repair
- Fiberoptic assembly
- Film cassettes
- Fishing rod manufacture
- Flooring material, glue, sealer
- Golf clubs, golf balls
- Handbags, purses
- Hemodialysis equipment, cath
- Hockey stick assembly
- “Jelly” shoes
- Laminates, plastic molding
- Medical lab adhesive
- Metal corrosion protection
- Microscopy immersion oil
- Nail polish
- Nasal cannula
- Pacemakers
- Paints, printing inks
- Plastic bracelets, necklaces, panties, shoes
- Plasticizer, industrial
- Protective coating, e.g. tent fabric, knee patch
- PVC products
- Shoemaking, bonded leather
- Ski, ski pole, snowboard manufacture
- Surface coatings, e.g. bridges
- Synthetic asphalt
- Tennis racket manufacture
- Textile flame retardant
- Vinyl gloves
- Wall & floor protective coating
- Waterproofing
- Wind turbine rotor blade production

How to avoid it:
If possible, substitute a non-epoxy resin glue, high molecular weight epoxy adhesive, or one-bag epoxy product that mixes in the package. Do not touch uncured epoxy. To protect your hands from epoxy, wear 4H/Silvershield Gloves (www.allerderm.com 800-365-6868 or www.northsafety.com 800-430-4110) or Barrier Chemical Protective Gloves (www.ansellpro.com 800-800-0444). Avoid breathing epoxy fumes. Warn your dentist you are allergic to epoxy resin!