

TRICLOSAN AND CHLORINE

Recent research¹ has suggested that free chlorine in tap water might react with triclosan to produce chloroform. The conditions for this chemical reaction require an excess of chlorine, as may occur during the chlorination treatment of drinking water.

Chemical experts have commented that the generation of chloroform or the chlorination of triclosan in tap water under real world conditions can be ruled out. In addition, the levels generated in the chemistry experiments were extremely low and such levels do not present a risk to human health.

The use of triclosan in cosmetic products is closely regulated under the European Cosmetics Directive. The main aim of these laws is the safeguarding of human health. The safety of triclosan in products including toothpastes, hand washes and soaps etc. is supported by the European Commission's expert Scientific Committee for Consumer Products and by the Cosmetic Ingredient Review panel in the United States. Consumers may continue to use cosmetic products containing triclosan in safety.

1 Formation of Chloroform and Chlorinated Organics by Free-Chlorine-Mediated Oxidation of Triclosan

Krista L. Rule, Virginia R. Ebbett, and Peter J. Vikesland
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