

Fire hazard from skin products containing paraffin

This information sheet will help you understand more about a fire hazard when using skin products containing paraffin. It is not a substitute for talking with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

There is a fire hazard from skin products containing liquid paraffin and/or white soft paraffin.



Which skin products does this include?

Skin products containing liquid paraffin and/or white soft paraffin are used to help manage dry skin conditions such as eczema or psoriasis. They can be used on adults, children and babies.

You can find out whether the skin product you are using contains paraffin by checking the ingredients on the label or by asking your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

What do I need to know?

If you, or someone you care for, is using a skin product containing paraffin, there is a risk that smoking or using a naked flame could cause your clothing, bedding or bandages to catch fire.

To stop this from happening:

- do not smoke or use naked flames (or be near people who are smoking or using naked flames) while the skin products containing paraffin are in contact with your clothing, bedding or bandages
- do not go near anything that may cause a fire while the skin products containing paraffin are in contact with your clothing or bandages
- change your clothing, bedding and bandages regularly – preferably daily – because skin products containing paraffin soak into fabric, build up and can become a fire hazard
- tell your relatives and carers about your treatment and show them this leaflet.



The skin products are not themselves flammable – it is the clothing, bedding or bandages covered in the skin products containing paraffin that are at risk of catching fire.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have any more questions, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

If you would like help to stop smoking, please visit the Ministry of Health's website: [health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/addictions/smoking/stop-smoking](https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/addictions/smoking/stop-smoking)