

Phenoxyethanol

Phenoxyethanol is a paraben and formaldehyde free cosmetic preservative.

Phenoxyethanol is one of the most widely used preservatives in personal care products including detergents, cosmetics, toiletries and pharmaceuticals. It provides a broad-spectrum anti-microbial activity against either gram-negative or gram-positive bacteria, yeasts and moulds. It is soluble in many non-polar ingredients and contributes solvency activity. Its activity is effective in protein-based products also. In most countries, it is permitted to a maximum of 1% concentration.

Phenoxyethanol is an organic chemical compound, a glycol ether often used in dermatological products such as skin creams. It is a colorless oily liquid. It is a bactericide (usually used in conjunction with quaternary ammonium compounds), often used in place of sodium azide in biological buffers as 2-phenoxyethanol is less toxic and non-reactive with copper and lead. It is also used as a fixative for perfumes, an insect repellent, a topical antiseptic, a solvent for cellulose acetate, some dyes, inks, and resins, in preservatives, pharmaceuticals, and in organic synthesis. It is moderately soluble in water.

It is also listed as an ingredient for many United States vaccines by the Center for Disease Control.