

## **Parabens**

Positioning updated on June 12, 2007

Parabens are compounds used as antimicrobial preservatives in food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical products. These substances are a homologous series of p-hydroxybenzoic acid esters (methylparaben, ethylparaben, propylparaben, isopropylparaben, butylparaben, isobutylparaben, and benzylparaben), used singly or in combination to exert an antimicrobial effect, which occurs due to the antifungal activities of these substances.

Among the parabens, methylparaben and propylparaben are two of the main antifungal agents used in cosmetics due to their low toxicity and long history of use.

In recent years, parabens have been the subject of suspicions that they may pose a health risk, though there is no scientific consensus in this regard.

For this reason, Natura has exercised precaution and decided to eliminate these substances from new products. Therefore, we will no longer add parabens in new formulas and will adapt our current portfolio by 2010.