

# What is a 'cosmetic' antibacterial skin-care product?

In Australia, antibacterial skin-care products are regulated as either **therapeutic goods** or **cosmetics**. AICIS regulates the chemical ingredients in non-therapeutic antibacterial skin-care products that meet the definition of a cosmetic.



## Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products



Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products include:

- cleansers and gels
- face scrubs
- masks
- anti-bacterial hand lotions
- sanitisers and wipes



Cosmetic antibacterial skin-care products must **not** contain any substance in Schedules 2, 3, 4 or 8 to the Poisons Standard.



They can only be advertised or presented for supply as being active against bacteria and must **not** be advertised or presented for supply as being:

- active against viruses, fungi or other microbial organisms (other than bacteria)
- active against a named bacterium that is known to be associated with a disease, disorder or medical condition
- for use in connection with disease, disorders or medical conditions
- for use in connection with piercing of the skin or mucous membrane, for cosmetic or any other purpose
- for use in connection with any procedure associated with the risk of transmission of disease from contact with blood or other bodily fluids
- for use before physical contact with a person who is accessing medical or health services, or who is undergoing any medical or health-care procedure
- for use in connection with a procedure involving venepuncture (puncturing a vein with a needle) or to deliver an injection



## Examples



A skin cleanser with a label that says it removes oils and bacteria is considered a cosmetic.



A skin cleanser with a label that says it kills staph is considered a therapeutic good because it claims to be active against a named bacterium.



Wet wipes with a label that says the product cleans the skin and kills 99% of bacteria is considered a cosmetic.



Wet wipes with a label that says the product kills COVID-19 is considered a therapeutic good because it claims to be active against a virus.

## What do we mean by 'presented for supply'?

The way in which a product is presented for supply includes matters relating to the product's name, the way it's labelled or packaged, and any advertising or other informational material associated with the product.

## How can I view the Poisons Standard?

You can view and download the Poisons Standard at the Australian Government's Federal Register of Legislation.

## What's the definition of a cosmetic?

You can view the legal definition of a cosmetic, and many other terms, in our online glossary.



Australian Government

Department of Health

Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme



For more details, see the cosmetics and soap section on our website:

[industrialchemicals.gov.au](https://www.industrialchemicals.gov.au)