



What are phthalates? Phthalates are a family of industrial chemicals that are used as plastic softeners or solvents in many different consumer items, including skin care products. They can be absorbed through the skin, ingested when they contaminate food or when children bite or suck on toys, or they can be inhaled as fumes.

Why no phthalates? Organic ingredients like those used in [erbaviva](#) products can provide similar or even better levels of quality without incorporating possibly harmful phthalates. Hundreds of animal studies have demonstrated that phthalates can damage the liver, the kidneys, the lungs and the reproductive system, especially the developing testes. Scientists in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health Canada and the National Institutes of Health's Toxicology Program agree that animal studies predict that phthalates can be dangerous to humans. In January of 2003, the European Parliament banned the use of Category 1 and 2 reproductive toxicants in cosmetics, including the phthalates DEHP and DBP.