



# LATEX in the Hospital Environment

## UPDATED SUMMER 2004

*This list provides a guide to some of the most common objects containing latex and offers some alternatives. It is not meant to be a comprehensive listing.*

Frequently contain LATEX	LATEX-SAFE alternatives
Anesthesia: circuits, bags, oxygen masks	Neoprene (Anesthesia Associates, Ohmeda adult), some Vital Signs
Band-aids	Active Strip (3M), CURAD Neon, Readi-Bandages, NHP Coverlet, some Airstrip, Advanced Healing
Blood pressure cuff and tubing (J&J)	Cleen Cuff (Vital Signs), nylon, some Trimline
Bulb syringe	Some Davol, Medline, Rusch, Premium, Baxter
Casts: Delta-Lite Podiatry, Orthoflex (J&J)	Scotchcast soft, Delta-Lites, recent Conformable (J&J), Caraglas Ultra, liners (Gore)
Catheters: condom	Clear Advantage, ProSys NL, selected Coloplast, Rochester, PolyTech (Hollister)
Catheters: indwelling & systems, UDS	Some Am BioMed, Argyle, Bard, Cook, Dale, Kendall, Lifetech, Mentor, Rochester, Rusch, Vitaid. Adapters & plug (Addto)
Catheters: cardiac, vascular, pulmonary	Some World Medical, Am BioMed
Catheters: straight, coude	Mentor, RobNel (Sherwood), Coloplast, selected Bard, Rusch catheters
Catheters: feeding	Accumark feeding catheter (Sims Portex)
Dressings: Dyna-flex, butterfly closures (J&J), BDF Elastoplast, Action Wrap, Coban (3M), Lyofoam (Acme), Spandage (Medi-tech), Telfa	Duoderm, Reston foam (3M), Opsite, Venigard, Comfeel, Sorbaview, Telfa (some) Xeroform, PinCare, Bioclusive, Montgomery strap (J&J), Webril, Metalline, Selopor, OpraFlex, Centurion brief, some Airstrips, Rainbow Net (Surgilast), VAC, Warm-up
NOTE: latex in package only: Steri-strip wound closure system, Tegisorb, Active Strips (3M), Nu-Derm (J&J), CURAD	
Ear Plugs	Grainger (5F767)
Elastic wrap: ACE, Esmarch, Zimmer Dyna-flex, Elastikon (J&J)	E-Cotton, CEB elastic (coNco), Champ (Carolyn), Adban Adhesive, X-Mark (Avcor) Co-Flex, PowerFlex (Andover), Comprilan (Jobst), Esmark (DeRoyal, NHP)
Electrode bulbs, pads, grounding	Some Baxter, Dantec EMG, Conmed, ValleyLab, Vermont Med, Staodyn, Neotrode
Endotracheal tubes, airways	Selected Berman, Mallinckrodt, Polamedco, Portex, Rusch, Sheridan, Shiley
Enemas	BabyLax, Enemeez, Bowel Management Tube (MIC), Pharmaseal set, all Fleet Ready-to-Use, cone irrigation set (Convatec), silicone retention cuff tip (Lafayette)
G-tubes, buttons	Silicone (Bard, Flexiflo, MIC, Rusch, Stomate)
Gloves: sterile, clean, surgical, orthodontic	Allergard (J&J), dermaprene (Ansell), N-DEX (Best), Safeskin Nitrile, Neolon, SensiCare, Tru-touch (Maxxim), Nitrex, Tactyl 1,2 (SmartPractice), Duraprene, (Allegiance Healthcare), Elastyren (Hermal, Center Labs), Boston Medical, Masel, Neotech, Biogel Skinsense (Regent Medical)
Incentive deep breathing exerciser	Voldyne 5000 (Sherwood David & Geck), Triflo II
IV access: injection ports, Y-sites, bags, pumps, buretrol ports, PRN adapters, needleless systems	Polymer injection caps, burettes and Safsite (Braun), Abbot Systems, Walrus, Gemini (IMED), selected Baxter (InterLink), Statlock, Ready Med, ConMed, Clave, Alaris, Hudson, selected Sims, IV boards (Avcor), Terumo Pumps: Mach II, ADS 100, Clic-Open (vial top remover – Sepha Pharm)
OR/Infection Control masks, hats, shoe covers	Some by Kimberly Clark, TECNOL, OR and sterile packs (CML, DeRoyal) twill ties
Ostomy supplies	Check with individual companies regarding latex content of products
Medication vial stoppers	Some AmRegent, Astra, Bedford Labs, Fujisawa, Gensia, Glaxo, Lilly, Roche
Miscellaneous items	Soft-Grip fabric clamp covers (Scanlan), Precision Dynamics ID bracelets
Penrose drains	Jackson-Pratt, Zimmer Hemovac
Pulse oximeters, thermometer probes	Nonin oximeters, selected Nellcor sensors, Diatec probe covers
Reflex hammers	Cover with plastic bag
Respirators	Advantage (MSA), HEPA-Tech (Uvex), PFR 95 (Tecnol), 3M 1860
Resuscitators, manual	Certain Ambu, Armstrong, Laerdal, Puriton Bennett, Vital Blue, Respironics, Rusch
Skin Adhesives	Mastisol (Ferdale)
Spacer (for metered dose inhalers)	ACE spacer (Center Labs), OptiHaler (HealthScan)
Stethoscope tubing	PVC (some Littman) cover with ScopeCoat or latex-free stockinette (Albahealth)
Suction tubing	PVC (Daval, Laerdal, Mallinckrodt, Superior, Yankauer) Medline, Ballard
Syringes, disposable	Terumo Medical, Abbott PCA Abboject, Norm-Ject (Air-Tite), EpiPen, selected BD syringes, AdvantaJet (Activa)
Tapes: pink, Waterproof (3M), Zonas, Moleskin cloth,	Dermicel (J&J), Durapore, Microfoam, Micropore, Transpore (3M) Cath-Strip Molepad, Hytape Pink
Waterproof (J&J), adhesive felt (Acme)	(Genetic Labs), Ice Tape (P.O.Pak), All-Felt (Universal Foot Care), Hypafix
Tonopen disposable covers (glaucoma tester)	None
Tourniquets	Children's Medical, Grafco, VelcroPedic, X-Tourn straps (Avcor), Free-Band (Kent)
Theraband (also strip, tube), other OT supplies	REP Bands and Cords (OPTP), Exercise putty (Rolyan), new Thera-Band Exercisers
Tubing, sheeting	Plastic tubing – Tygon LR-40 (Norton), elastic thread, sheets (JPS Elastomerics)
Vascular/Compression stockings	Compriform Custom (Jobst), Latex Free TEDs



# LATEX in Home and Community

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*This list provides a guide to some of the most common objects containing latex and offers some alternatives. It is not meant to be a comprehensive listing.*

Frequently contain LATEX	LATEX-SAFE alternatives
Art supplies: paints, glue, erasers, fabric paints	Elmers (School Glue, Glue-All, GluColors, Carpenters Wood Glue, Sno-Drift paste) FaberCastel erasers, Crayola (except stamps, erasers), Liquitex paints, DickBlick tempera, acrylic paints and soap erasers, Play-Doh
Balloons	Mylar balloons, self-sealing Myloons
Balls: Koosh balls, tennis balls, bowling balls, Ball Pits	PVC (Hedstrom Sports Ball), Nerf Foam Balls
Carpet Backing, Gym Floor, Gym Mats	Broadloom carpets contain no NRL. For other products, provide barrier cloth or mat.
Chewing gum	Bubblicious, Trident (Warner-Lambert), Wrigley gums (check new products)
Clothes: liquid appliques on tee-shirts, elastic on socks, underwear, sneakers, sandals	Cloth-covered elastic, neoprene (Decent Exposures, NOLATEX Industries), Buster Brown elastic-free socks (Vermont Country Store)
Condoms, contraceptive sponges, diaphragm	Polyurethane (Avanti), female condom (Reality), Wideseal Silicone Diaphragms (Millex), Trojan Supra Condom, FemCaps
CPR manikins and medical training aids	Most Laerdal products
Crutches: tips, axillary pads, hand grips	Cover with cloth or tape
Dental dams, cups, bands, root canal material, orthodontic rubber bands	PURO/M27 intraoral elastics (Midwest Orthodontic), wire springs, sealant (Delton) dams (Meer Dental, Hygenic Corp), John O Butler, Earloop masks (Richmond)
Diapers, incontinence pads, rubber pants	Huggies, First Quality, Gold Seal, Tranquility, Always, some Attends, Drypers Diapers (not training pants), Confidence (Paper-Pak), Pampers, Luvs
Feeding nipples	Silicone, vinyl (selected Gerber, Evenflo, MAM, Ross, Mead Johnson)
Food handled with latex gloves	Synthetic gloves for food handling
Handles on racquets, tools, bicycles	Vinyl, leather handles or cover with cloth or tape
Infant toothbrush-massager	Soft bristle brush or cloth, Gerber/NUK
Kitchen cleaning gloves	PVC MYPLEX (Magla), cotton liners (Allerderm)
Latex paints, sealants, stains, etc.	There is no natural rubber in latex paint, though it may be present in some waterproof paints and sealants
Miscellaneous items	Some medical stickers by MediBadge, UAL, Cushie Tushie Potty Seat
Newsprint, ads, coupons, lottery scratch tickets	None
Pacifiers	Soothies (Children's Med Ventures), selected Binky, Gerber, Infa, Kip, MAM
Playpits, playground surfaces	Natural rubber latex may be a component of surfaces
Rubber bands, bungee cords	Plasti bands
Toys - Stretch Armstrong, old Barbies	Jurassic Park figures (Kenner), 1993 Barbie, Disney dolls (Mattel), many toys by Fisher Price, Little Tikes, Playschool, Discovery, Trolls (Norfin), Silly-putty
Water toys and equipment: beach thongs, masks,	PVC, plastic, nylon, Suits Me Swimwear bathing suits, caps, scuba gear, goggles
Wheelchair cushions	Jay, ROHO cushions, Sof Care bed/chair cushions (Gaymar)
Wheelchair tires	Recommend using leather gloves
Zippered plastic storage bags	Waxed paper, plain plastic bags, Ziploc bags

## Online Resources

*Spina Bifida Association of America*  
www.sbaa.org

*Latex Allergy Links*  
www.latexallergylinks.tripod.com

*American Latex Allergy Association/ALERT*  
www.latexallergyresources.org

*Decent Exposures*  
(latex free undergarments)  
1-800-524-4949  
www.decentexposures.com

*OSHA*  
www.osha.gov/SLTC/latexallergy

*American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*  
www.aaaai.org

*American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*  
www.acaai.org

**NOTE:** Associated allergies: Foods include: banana, avocado, chestnut, kiwi, pear. Plants include: Poinsettia and milk weed pods.

### About These Lists

These lists are offered by the Latex Committee of the Nursing and Healthcare Professionals Council of the Spina Bifida Association of America as a guideline to individuals, families and professionals. It is updated annually.

The information contained in these lists is constantly changing as manufacturers improve their products and as we learn more about latex allergy.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The latex content of products may vary between companies and product series. Companies that offer "alternatives" may ALSO make many LATEX products. We recommend that you check with suppliers before exposing individuals with latex allergies to the product.

**REMEMBER:** Always check the label – even if the product is on this list. If a product has recently replaced latex, many institutions will continue to use the old stock before they replace it with the new.

### For More Information

For the most current version of this list, visit the SBA website at www.sbaa.org or send a SASE with 37¢ postage to Spina Bifida Association of America, 4590 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20007-4226, 800-621-3141.