

Fire Hazard with Emollients

Information for Patients

Emollients are moisturising treatments which are applied directly to your skin to soothe and hydrate it. They cover the skin with a protective film to trap in moisture. Emollients are available as lotions, sprays, creams, ointments, bath oils, shower products and soap substitutes.

There is a risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients.

Follow this safety advice when using emollients:

- You must keep away from fire, flames and cigarettes when using all types of emollients (both paraffin-based and paraffin-free)
- Be aware that dressings, clothing, bedding and furniture that have been in contact with an emollient can easily catch fire
- Ensure that your clothes and bedding are changed regularly (preferably daily) as the emollient can soak into fabrics and can potentially be a fire hazard
- Washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but it will not totally remove the emollient
- Keep emollients off furniture at all times. Be aware that the cream can transfer from your skin onto the fabric of furniture when you are sitting or lying on it
- Tell your relatives or carers about your treatment and show them this leaflet as they can help you reduce the risk
- Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you normally smoke. They will be able to offer you help and advice to stop smoking.

Your treatment is important, but it is essential that you are kept safe when you use these products. By following the advice in this leaflet, you will help us to make sure that you are treated safely.

Please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about the information in this leaflet.