

Shampoo Ingredient Dictionary

Nicole A Heinrich DVM DACVD
McKeever Dermatology Clinics
www.mckeevvetderm.com
952-946-0035

*** = great!

** = pretty good

* = might work, but not the best

Shampoo ingredient

Aloe vera

Action: moisturizing/anti-itch/antibacterial

Efficacy: ***/**/*

Carboxylic acid

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Chitosanide

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Colloidal oatmeal

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Notes: some formulations can be irritating

Fatty acids

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Glycerin

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Glycerol esters

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Glycol

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Lactic acid

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Lanolin

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: ***

Phytosphingosine

Action: Moisturizing

Efficacy: ***

Notes: A building block of the skin.

Propylene glycol

Action: moisturizing/antibacterial/antifungal

Efficacy: ***/**/*

Protein hydrolysates

Action: Contain oil and protein. Oil adds luster, protein coats the hair and makes it seem thicker.

Efficacy: variable

Notes: If protein is added to shampoo rather than applied separately, most of it will be rinsed away and the effect will be minimal.

Sodium lactate

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Urea

Action: moisturizing

Efficacy: **

Sodium lauryl ether sulfate

Action: detergent/cleansing

Efficacy: **

Notes: mild

Sodium lauryl sulfate

Action: detergent/cleansing

Efficacy: do not use

Notes: irritating

Diphenhydramine

Action: anti-itch

Efficacy: *

Hydrocortisone

Action: anti-itch

Efficacy: **

Menthol

Action: anti-itch

Efficacy: *

Pramoxine

Action: anti-itch

Efficacy: *

Acetic acid (vinegar)

Action: antibacterial/drying

Efficacy: **/**

Notes: can be irritating; dilute 1:5 or 1:10 in water

Alcohol

Action: antibacterial

Efficacy: *

Notes: drying and irritating

Benzalkonium chloride

Action: antibacterial

Efficacy: *

Benzoyl peroxide

Action: antibacterial/follicular flushing/degreasing

Efficacy: ***/**/**

Notes: can be drying

Chlorhexidine

Action: antibacterial/antifungal

Efficacy: ***/*

Notes: generally speaking, the best antibacterial agent among shampoo ingredients

Ethyl lactate

Action: antibacterial

Efficacy: **

Notes: mild

Hydrogen peroxide

Action: antibacterial

Efficacy: *

Iodine

Action: antibacterial/antifungal

Efficacy: */*

Notes: drying and irritating

Phenols/Cresols (hexachlorophene, resorcinol, thymol, picric acid)

Action: antibacterial/antifungal/anti-itch

Efficacy: */*/*

Potassium permanganate

Action: antibacterial/antifungal/drying

Efficacy: **/**/*

Notes: stings and can cause purple stains

Salicylic acid

Action: antibacterial/degreasing/reduce flaking

Efficacy: ***/**/**

Selenium Sulfide

Action: antibacterial/ antifungal/degreasing/reduce flaking

Efficacy: **/**/**/**

Notes: can be drying

Sodium hypochlorite/chloramines

Action: antibacterial/antifungal

Efficacy: ***/*

Notes: can be irritating; dilute 1:10 in water

Sulfur

Action: antibacterial/degreasing & reduce scaling

Efficacy: **/**

Tar

Action: antibacterial/degreasing & reduce scaling/ anti-itch

Efficacy: **/**/**

Tea tree oil (Melaleuca oil)

Action: antibacterial/antifungal/parasite repellent

Efficacy: */*/*

Notes: can rarely be toxic and cause hypersalivation, incoordination, weakness, liver toxicity and drop in body temperature

Domeboro (aluminum acetate)

Action: drying

Efficacy: ***

Notes: dilute to lowest concentration on package

Witch hazel (hamamelis)

Action: drying

Efficacy: **

Climbazole

Action: antifungal

Efficacy: ***

Ketoconazole

Action: antifungal

Efficacy: ***

Lime sulfur

Action: antifungal

Efficacy: ***

Notes: can be drying & can cause yellow stains; smells like rotten eggs; Generally speaking, lime sulfur is the most effective antifungal for dermatophytosis.

Miconazole

Action: antifungal

Efficacy: ***

alpha-hydroxyacids (lactic, malic, citric, pyruvic, glutamic, glycolic and tartaric acids)

Action: reduce scaling

Efficacy: *

Tid Bits:

Medicated shampoos should be allowed to sit on the pet for 10 to 15 minutes before rinsing K9 skin pH is 7-7.4 This is different than human skin, so human pH-balanced shampoos may not be as effective in dogs as they are in people. **Human shampoos are ok to use in dogs.** Soap shampoos work well in soft water. In hard water, they leave a dulling film of calcium and magnesium soap on the hair.

Detergent shampoos are synthetic surfactants or emulsifying agents, usually salts of lauryl sulfate.

Conditioners should be used after detergent shampoos.

Conditioners have 4 main purposes: 1. reduce static electricity 2. give body to limp hair 3. supply fatty acids or oil to coat the hair and skin 4. deliver medication to the skin and hair surface that will not be completely rinsed away or removed.

Conditioners are slightly acidic which hardens keratin and removes hard water residues.

Vinegar, lemon or bleaching rinses are not recommended except for special problems.

Dry baths:

Talc, boric acid powder or special products available at pet stores are dusted into the coat and then thoroughly brushed out. With careful application the coat is left relatively clean and lustrous. However, dry baths are only good for quick cosmetic clean-up. Powder cleaners are actually inefficient: they dry the coat and increase its static electricity. Should not be used to replace bathing.

Tar or Paint:

Small deposits should be allowed to harden and then be cut off

Large amounts of tar can be soaked in vegetable oil or an emollient oil with a surfactant for 24 hours and then washed out with Dawn dish soap.

Never use paint removers or organic solvents such as kerosene, turpentine and gasoline to remove tar or paint. They may produce caustic burns.

Gum:

Harden with ice, then strip or pull out

Odors:

Might originate from the mouth, ears, feet or perineum, so these areas should be checked carefully.

Odor from the skin often indicates bacterial or yeast infections.

Clipping:

Medicated shampoos may have greater benefit in clipped hair.

Dogs with long coats or with corded hair may take years to re-grow after clipping

Dandruff can be caused by allergies, genetic disorders and bacterial infections