

Alternative Products

Name:	Found at:	Notes about toxicity:	Notes on usage/customer reviews:	Straightener or Relaxer?
Phytorelaxer	Sephora.com	None of the usual suspects appear in ingredients list. All of the ingredients I checked on the EWG database were a 3 or below.	Most reviews say that it transformed tight curls to loose waves.	Straightener
Ogilvie Straightener	Walmart, Amazon	Contains Ammonium hydroxide and Hydrogen Peroxide. Contains Ammonium Thioglycolate (a 4 on skindeep).	Does not work very well on African American hair- More suited to go from curly to wavy. Smooths hair and controls frizz.	Straightener
Zoto EasyStraight	Amazon, Sallys Beauty Supply	Petrolatum (4), Ammonium Hydroxide, Chlorophyllin-Copper Complex(3-5), Hydrogen Peroxide,	Some customers say it fried their hair.	Straightener
DivaSmooth	Divasmoothdiva.com	Claims to be chemical free.	It is not a straightener, but a smoothing treatment that aids in smoothing when used with a flat iron.	Liquid product
Luster's Pink No Lye Relaxer Kit - Super				
Just for me No-lye texture softener				
Optimum Care Hair relaxer for coarse hair				
Organic Olive Oil Relaxer Kit - Extra Strength				
Proline Soft and Beautiful Relaxer Kit - Regular				
Revlon No Base Relaxer - Mild				
Sofn'free n'pretty No-lye sensitive conditioning Relaxer with ESP				
Sofn'free n'pretty Olive & Sunflower Oil No-lye Relaxer				
TCB Naturals, No Lye Olive Oil Relaxer Kit - super				
TCB No Base Relaxer-Regular-212g				

Toxic Chemicals

Ingredients of concern	Risks	Function	Source
Ethanolamine	Occupational hazards, organ system toxicity, skin, eye, and lung irritation.		http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf and http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Sodium Hydroxide	Can cause hair breakage, skin burns and lesions, and possible links to uterine fibroids.	Loosen curl pattern in hair in relaxers and straighteners.	http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf
Calcium Hydroxide	Can cause hair breakage, skin burns and lesions, and possible links to uterine fibroids.	Loosen curl pattern in hair in relaxers and straighteners.	http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf
DMDM Hydanotin (Formaldehyde Releaser)	Allergies/immunotoxicity, Irritation (skin, eyes, or lungs), Use restrictions, Cancer, Contamination concerns (FORMALDEHYDE)		http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf
Parabens	Can cause reproductive and developmental harm (links to low sperm count)	Preserve shelf life of shampoos, conditioners, and personal care products	http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf
Sulfate	Can cause allergic reactions and skin or eye irritations.	Makes shampoo and soap products bubble and foam	http://www.bwwla.org/newsite2017/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/HHI-Infographic-5-1.pdf
Retinyl Palmitate	Use restrictions, Developmental/reproductive toxicity, Biochemical or cellular level changes, Cancer, Organ system toxicity (non-reproductive)		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Fragrance	Allergies/immunotoxicity, Miscellaneous, Irritation (skin, eyes, or lungs), Organ system toxicity (non-reproductive), Ecotoxicology		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Oxybenzone (benzophenone 3)	Enhanced skin absorption, Biochemical or cellular level changes, Allergies/immunotoxicity, Use restrictions, Endocrine disruption, Persistence and bioaccumulation, Developmental/reproductive toxicity, Organ system toxicity (non-reproductive)		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
AMYL CINNAMALDEHYDE	allergies/immunotoxicity		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Geraniol	allergies, ecotoxicology		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
LILIAL-BUTYLPHENYL METHYLPROPIONAL	Use restrictions, Allergies/immunotoxicity, Persistence and bioaccumulation, Organ system toxicity (non-reproductive), Endocrine disruption		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Phenoxyethanol	A skin and severe eye irritant (HSDB)		http://www.ewg.org/skindeep/
Methylene Glycol (+heat=formaldehyde)			

Products and Brands of Concern

Products of Concern	Skindeep Score	Ingredients of Concern	Risks
African Pride Miracle Deep Conditioning Anti-breakage No-Lye Relaxer	10	retinyl palmitate, DMDM hydantoin (formaldehyde releaser), fragrance	cancer, developmental/reproductive toxicity, allergies, irritation of skin, eyes, lungs
Creme of Nature Argan Oil No-Lye Relaxer	10	Oxybenzone, fragrance, calcium hydroxide, propylparaben, amylcinnamaldehyde, geraniol	allergies, ecotoxicology, irritation, endocrine disruptor, developmental/reproductive toxicity, enhanced skin absorption
Optimum Salon Haircare Defy Brekage No-Lye Relaxer	10	lilial-butylphenyl methylpropional	allergies, immunotoxicology, persistence and bioaccumulation, organ system toxicology, endocrine disruptor
Brands of Concern			
Optimum Salon Haircare			
Colomer Group (obtained by Revlon)			
House of Cheatham			
ORS			
Africa's Best			
Motions			