

Are AURO paints safe for allergy sufferers?

The simple answer is **yes and no** as each case is different from individual to individual and depends on what ingredients act as a trigger that sets off the reaction. It would be irresponsible for any paint company to claim that their products were completely safe, we do however fully declare all of our ingredients to help establish whether one or more may be problematic. We also highly **recommend** trying out some **tester pots** first if you have allergies to safely know if there may be problems or not. The general consensus is that most allergy sufferers more easily tolerate our paints as they are water-based and VOC free. This is the reason we received the highest rating in Proof's report on chemical free paint. Please see our fuller response below.

How do allergies occur?

Allergies are external signs of a very complex oversensitivity of the human immune system to substances foreign to the human body. The external reaction of the body to a certain substance does not necessarily uncover the true cause of the allergy. A simple cause/reaction relationship, on the one hand the cause, on the other the typical reaction, cannot be cited. Complaints showing similar symptoms can have been caused by a multitude of different irritants.

Why has there been such an increase in allergies?

Allergies are always a sign of an excess of irritation or stress on the immune system caused by foreign matter. The almost avalanche-like increase of new chemicals is particularly significant; that is substances tailored for one single purpose of application, for whose effects the human organism is not prepared, whose long-term effect is not known and which are always tested on people first. Natural paint substances however are familiar to the human organism even though they come from remote countries. There are no new substances introduced here. A demar resin belongs to the same class of terpene hydrocarbons as a pine or spruce resin: Indigo is also present in the mid-European (colouring) woad.

Can the chemical industry come to the rescue of the allergy sufferer?

Basically: NO

Additional tailor-made alternatives to familiar allergy-inducers merely promote the increase of chemicals in the environment and thus inevitably add to the

strain of the immune system. This then forms the basis for new allergies. Superficial success is followed by the worse scenario: the alternative chemicals of today breed the allergy sufferers of tomorrow.

What does AURO offer as a concrete solution to allergie-suffers?

There are no easy answers for allergy sufferers.

Allergies are known to be entirely individual problems with their own reaction mechanism. Often it is not even the substance matter, which causes an acute irritation, that is the real allergy-inducer. Therefore there cannot be a universal easy remedy for the allergy sufferer (as in the motto " We produce no allergy-inducer"). Individual treatment under responsible and, above all, expert medical supervision is of the essence. People who give any other impression act irresponsibly: their own economic interest is more important to them than the good of mankind.

Frequently allergies occur

through the use of cosmetic and washing and cleaning aids because the body is often and repeatedly exposed to these substances. Likewise, quite often allergies are caused by food and medicines. On top of that these are the contact - allergies caused by constant contact with metals (earrings, trouser buttons). Finally we are familiar with allergies to household dust and pollen. Allergies to components of paints and varnishes, including those made from natural raw materials, can show similar distinct symptoms, but they are more rare.

Potential allergy inducers in conventional paints

When an allergy to traditional paints exists, the causes can be solvents (white spirit, isoaliphates) or synthetic resins (epoxy resins, iso-cyanates, polyurethanes). In principle every made -to-measure chemical in paints and varnishes is a potential allergy inducer when for example a solvent is exposed to the air or when a person is in frequent contact with it (professionals).

Potential allergy inducers in natural paints

Natural substances too, can cause allergic reactions, especially if there is a history of complaints induced by chemicals. Essential oils which are present in nature as volatile aroma essence, make excellent solvents in natural paints, but are possible irritants. Similarly, natural resins and the oxidation products of plant based oils can cause irritation. However pollen residues in beeswax are totally harmless as they are bonded and therefore immobile.

Raw materials friendly to the allergy sufferer at the cost of the environment

A change to non-allergenic and less active raw materials in cosmetic, Medicines or, for that matter, varnishes and paints, can only be related to current levels of knowledge: the long term risks and the extent to which allergies will be induced, is as yet unknown. In principle every substance and especially every foreign substances can cause allergies. Inevitably, the less active substances accumulate in the environment and from these they in turn put pressure on the immune system. a „blend "of nature and chemistry is therefore short sighted an can only be self-serving.

Of vital importance: to discover what one is allergic to

When sensitivity or allergy to a certain product is suspected, one must first find out exactly which substance(s) the allergy-inducer consists of. The first AURO aid at the „guessing" stage of an allergy is the total exposure of every raw material contained in the relevant product (the chemical industry should follow us in this respect). With the help of this full declaration early suspicions can either be confirmed or dismissed. As a second aid we offer every person suspected of suffering from allergies a small sample pot of your desired product for specialists ' tests -provided by Dublin stockists Klee Paper or please contact the Healthbuild office in Sligo)

If indeed sensitivity to one of these substances used in Auro products is proven, we can seek alternatives as there are several products available for one application, the most desirable solution for you will hopefully be found. For you we use our ingenuity: In seemingly hopeless situations there is the possibility to develop a special product which specifically avoids using " your" allergy-inducer.

Only through individual consultation and responsible behaviour can the most favourable ecological **and** toxicological conditions be achieved.