

Preservatives in the EU

What are preservatives?

A preservative is a **natural or synthetic ingredient** that is added to products to prevent them from spoiling.

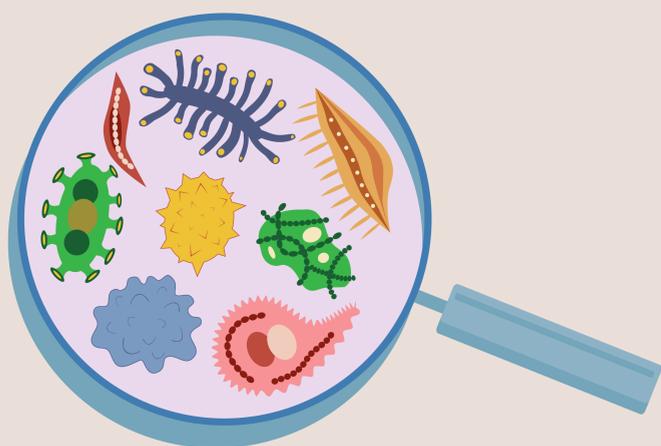


Preservatives ensure that **cosmetics and personal care products**, as well as **pharmaceuticals and foods**, remain safe during their period of use by consumers.

Preservatives must undergo rigorous evaluation, including safety assessments and quality testing, to ensure that they are **safe for use**.



Why do we need them?



Without preservatives, cosmetic products, just like food, can become contaminated, leading to **product spoilage**.

Microbial contamination of products, especially those used around the eyes and on the skin, can cause **irritation** or **infections**. Preservatives help **prevent** such problems.



What is the European Commission doing about them?

- It ensures an updated **list of scientifically evaluated safe preservatives** for their use in cosmetic products on the EU market



- It encourages scientific **research and innovation** so that new and more efficient preservatives for cosmetic products are discovered

- It supports and guides national authorities to **monitor products** already on the EU market

