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| |  | | --- | | Lets Talk About Sulfates! |  |  | | --- | | **Greetings!**  Why do Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS) and Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES), the most commonly used sulfates, have such bad reputations? Sensationalist marketing ploys and the Internet have led to the rapid spread of misinformation about their safety. We intend to provide you with accurate information and put an end to the rumors and myths about sulfates. |  |  | | --- | |  |      |  | | --- | | Myths vs. Facts  http://ih.constantcontact.com/fs081/1108475440422/img/9.jpg    **Myth 1: SLS and SLES cause cancer**  **Fact: They ARE NOT Carcinogenic**    The myth that SLS and SLES cause cancer originated in the 1970s. Some shampoos were contaminated with nitrosamines, which are known carcinogens. The use of free diethanolamine lauryl sulfate in the shampoos was determined to be the source of the contamination. The use of this type of ethanolamine was discontinued and prohibited. This is the only known sulfate to have any carcinogenic capabilities. All research into the carcinogenicity of sulfates has proven one thing and that is that they are non carcinogenic.    **Myth 2: SLS and SLES are hazardous**  **Fact: Side effects from these sulfates are mild. Some side effects include diarrhea and nausea, if ingested, and skin and eye irritation**    Three different agencies - the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Toxicology Program (NTP), and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have all rated SLS as being non-carcinogenic. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for SLS states that the only health hazards that it may cause are skin and eye irritation and vomiting and diarrhea if ingested. Keep in mind that MSDSs provide information for pure undiluted ingredients. The irritating properties of SLS and SLES are significantly reduced when combined with other ingredients in a cosmetic mixture. The Cosmetic Ingredient Review(CIR) classifies ingredients by how safe they are to use and how to use them. To learn more about how ingredients are reviewed for their safety check out the CIR [website](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1109377117960&s=5&e=0017axyp1QO8so3VF47JxnYnnBPgNk28mkekHa7VGKLNbf8kuW2ty6XIyphaI_7edbOOYCBGVA3Hd_ujod-fODLo7PzQJVm0pG6-3QrokRPeg4=).    **Myth 3: SLS and SLES are detergents used in household cleaning products**  **Fact: They are used in household cleaning products but at a higher percentage than in cosmetics.**    While SLS and SLES can be found in cleaning products they are not the active ingredient. The strength of SLS in a floor cleaner will not be the same as SLS cosmetic products. Products that contain these sulfates are diluted and usually contain 30-35% of a combination of surfactants in solution. Combining SLS or SLES with other surfactants helps to reduce irritation. You can also find SLS in tooth paste and laundry detergent.    **Myth 4: Sulfate-free means a product is natural**  **Fact: Sulfate-free does not make a product a natural product; it simply means that the product used another surfactant in place of a sulfate.**    The largest myth in the industry is that sulfate-free makes a product natural. Unfortunately some consumers have fallen victim to a marketing strategy that convinces buyers that if a product is sulfate-free and made with ingredients that are "naturally-derived" then it is a natural product. In fact, SLS and many other surfactants are naturally derived, but the process used to extract these chemicals classifies them as synthetic. "Naturally-derived" simply means that they have their origins in nature. Currently there are no federal regulations for products that are marketed as natural. However, there are resources that you can use to ensure that your products are meeting the general standards to be considered natural. Resources such as The Natural Products Association publish information regarding what classifies a product as natural. For a list of approved natural ingredients and processes check out the NPA [website](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1109377117960&s=5&e=0017axyp1QO8srQE3Igm1moscQzzVxVwGxYLYyKYRy3Fd4-o6A2Rd_heQaOwmRHwdE5oXh9VxhyeqEQicm5DzZSoTbnpf8n4kiHUkmodwr4DZY=). |  |  | | --- | |  |      |  | | --- | | **The Big Idea**    Sodium Lauryl Sulfate and Sodium Laureth Sulfate are not bad and have their uses. For example, clarifying shampoos need the deep cleansing power that these sulfates provide. There is no harm done if used correctly!!  Bottle pic  Stay tuned our next topic is **"What's the Difference Between Natural and Naturally-Derived Ingredients?"** |  |  | | --- | |  | |
| |  | | --- | | At Draga we promise to keep you updated on the latest information on industry trends. We are dedicated to helping you develop or enhance your line by using the best ingredients. For more information contact our sales department at [sales@dragalabs.com](mailto:sales@dragalabs.com)!    **Sincerely,**    Draga Laboratories |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Draga Laboratories LLC is a member of the Georgia Minority Supply Development Council. | |