



Ingredients Starting With W

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In the ingredient descriptions: **Good** means that I like to see this in a product's list of ingredients. **Okay** means this product appears safe for a curly person like me to use. **Caution** means that this ingredient may not be good in some hair care products, or for some people. **Avoid** means this ingredient may hurt your hair. If you see this ingredient in a hair product, it's best to put it down and walk away.

Please select a letter to search for ingredients:

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Walnut oil (aka *Juglans nigra*)

Good

A non-fragrant oil made from walnuts used for moisturizing [Begoun (Cosmetics pg 1353)].

See also: Emollient

Source(s): Begoun

Wasabi

Caution

A type of horseradish. Can cause scalp irritation.

See also: Irritant

Water

Okay

Average hair care products contain about 50% to 90% water. The rest of the ingredients determine the look, feel, and performance of the product. It is standard for water to go through a purification process. "Water can be given an elevated status by using an assortment of exclusive-sounding adjectives—described as deionized, purified, oxygenated, triple-purified, demineralized—to describe what is actually just plain water." Pgs 71, 200.

Source(s): Begoun

Waxes

Caution

Waxes can be made from many different things, including animals, plants, and even insects (such as beeswax). They are used to thicken or stiffen a product (like lipsticks). It rarely causes an allergic reaction, but it may with very sensitive skin, or if the person is allergic to the source of the wax. At room temperature wax is hard, but softens at warmer temperatures. Wax is insoluble in water, (and only partially soluble in boiling alcohol) [Winter 7th ed pg 546].

Waxes are often used in conditioners to form water-proof films over surfaces, which prevents water loss, which makes them moisturizing and conditioning. They are often used to stiffen products, and to keep them from separating. They are also often used for their appeal as natural products.

According to Hunting (Conditioning), some true waxes are Jojoba oil, Lanolin, Cetyl Esters, Myristyl myristate, and Stearyl stearate. "Wax-like" ingredients are Emulsifying wax nf, Ozokerite, and Paraffin [Hunting (Conditioning) pg 423].

Waxes can be difficult to shampoo out of hair if there is a high concentration of it in a product, such as one containing lots of beeswax, and may build up with repeated use. Wax mixed with clay can be very hard to get out of your hair. Many products made for starting locs contains lots of beeswax, and may be really hard to get out of your hair.

See also: Beeswax Cetyl esters Jojoba oil Lanolin oil Myristyl myristate Stearyl stearate Emulsifying wax NF

Paraffin Ozokerite

Source(s): Winter

Wheat amino acids

Good

Used as a humectant and conditioner. This is in one of my favorite, go to conditioners that I've been using for well over ten years. It has not caused any problems as far as conditioning and defining my hair. That's why I'm calling it a

* * * Tried and true ingredient * * *

See also: Amino acids

 Source(s): <http://www.cosmeticscop.com/>

Wheat germ oil (aka *Triticum vulgare*)

Good

A yellow to orange emollient oil made from pressing the wheat germ, used in hair conditioners. It isn't soluble in water [Winter 7th ed., pg 547; Hunting (Conditioning) pg 423-424].

Wheat germ oil is similar to many vegetable oils, and it's appeal is probably more marketing appeal. This is often used as a dietary supplement because it has a high amount of Vitamin E, and this is associated with healthiness. The vitamin E is good for the skin, and it has high antioxidant properties.

Source(s): Winter Hunting

Wheat silicone copolymer (aka *Crodosone W*)

Okay

Per Johnson [page 79], this smooths out the hair and enhances sheen: "The protein portion of the wheat silicone copolymer has a positive charge which is attracted to the negatively charged damaged sites on the cuticle to form an ionic-type bond. The silicone portion forms a protective layer on the surface of the hair to smooth it out and enhance sheen."

Source(s): Johnson

White Ginger (aka *Hedychium coronarium*)

Okay

See Hedychium coronarium.

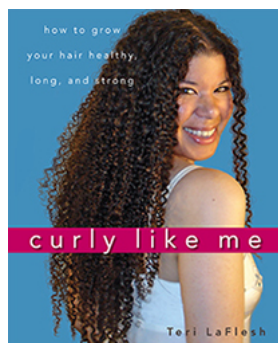
See also: Hedychium coronarium

Willow bark

Okay

Available now!

Curly Like Me, the off-the-grid, do-it yourself owner's manual for tightly curly hair, is ready for ordering. Grab your copy today!



Every purchase made from this site (through Amazon) helps support it — and it doesn't cost you anything extra.

Not effective in preventing dandruff. Pg 229.
Source(s): Begoun

Wintergreen

Caution

May cause skin irritation and/or sun sensitivity. Best not to use on a baby's skin. Pg 94.

See also: Irritant

Source(s): Begoun

Witch hazel extract (aka *Hamamelis virginiana*; Witch hazel leaf extract)

Caution

Made from the leaves or twigs often collected in autumn from the *Hamamelis virginiana* plant, often growing as a small tree or large shrub. This is a popular ingredient found in many products.

May cause irritation or dryness because it contains a high percentage of ethanol alcohol (70-80%). However, the product that's usually bought in stores is actually Witch hazel water, which has 15% ethanol. Okay if it is in products you will rinse out. [Winter (7th ed., pg 549-550)].

See also: Irritant Ethanol

Source(s): Winter

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