

# Glossary of Common Dental Product Ingredients

Version One: May 2011



Name of Ingredient	Other Name	Main Purpose (s)
Aluminium Oxide	Alumina	A mild abrasive to clean teeth.
Aqua	Water	The main carrier for all ingredients. Helps dissolve other soluble ingredients. Helps the mechanical process of cleaning teeth in mouthwashes.
Aroma	Fragrance / Odorant / Flavour	A chemical compound which adds odours to dental products.
Benzoic Acid	E210 / E211 / E212 / E213	A preservative and artificial flavouring.
Benzyl Alcohol	None	Solvent and preservative.
Calcium Carbonate	None	A mild abrasive to clean teeth.
Calcium Phosphate	None	Can help remineralisation of teeth. A mild abrasive for teeth.
Carrageenan	None	Binds and gels all the ingredients together.
Cellulose Gum	carboxymethyl cellulose	A thickening agent.
Cetylpyridinium chloride	None	An antiseptic that kills bacteria and other micro-organisms.
Chlorahexadine	None	An antiseptic and disinfectant to reduce unpleasant odours and plaque formation.
CI 74160	CI stands for Colour Index	Green colouring.
Citric Acid	E330	Preservative.
CI 15985	CI stands for Colour Index	Yellow colouring.
CI 18965	CI stands for Colour Index	Yellow colouring.
CI 42051	CI stands for Colour Index	Blue colouring.
CI 42053	CI stands for Colour Index	Green colouring.
CI 42090	CI stands for Colour Index	Blue colouring.
CI 42090	CI stands for Colour Index	Blue colouring .
CI 73360	CI stands for Colour Index	Pink colouring.
CI 77891	CI stands for Colour Index	Pink colouring.
Cocamidopropyl Betaine	Derived from coconut oil	A thickening agent.
Disodium Phosphate	None	Stabilises dental products and controls acidity.
Ethanol	Alcohol	Increases impact of the flavour. Assists in the cleaning action. Enhances the fresh taste. Adds to anti-bacterial activity.
Eucalyptol	Eucalyptus	A natural compound with flavouring and medicinal properties.
Fluoride	None	Helps prevent tooth decay.
Glycerine / Glycerin	None	Helps prevent products from drying out, acts as a thickener and provides sweetness.
Hydrated silica	Silica, sand, quartz	A clear abrasive to clean teeth.
Hydrogenated Caster Oil	Polyoxyl 40 / PEG-40	Stabiliser and emulsifier.
Hydroxyethylcellulose	None	A thickening agent.

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Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose	None	A thickener and binding agent.
Limonene	None	A natural solvent which cleanses and flavours products.
Liniment	None	Has antiseptic properties to aid healing.
Menthol	Peppermint	Flavours products.
Methyl Salicylate	None	A natural plant extract with antiseptic properties. A flavouring used as an alternative to mint.
Methylparaben	None	Anti-fungal and preservative.
Mica	White Mica	Mild abrasive to clean teeth.
PEG-12	Poly Ethylene Glycol	An emulsifier and foaming agent.
PEG-180	Poly Ethylene Glycol	An emulsifier and foaming agent.
PEG-32	Poly Ethylene Glycol	An emulsifier and foaming agent.
PEG-40	Poly Ethylene Glycol / Hydrogenated Caster Oil	An emulsifier and foaming agent.
PEG-6	Poly Ethylene Glycol	An emulsifier and foaming agent.
Pentasodium Triphosphate	None	Regulates acidity of the product.
Poloxamer 407	None	Helps to dissolve oils.
Polyoxyethylene Fatty Acid Esters	None	Foaming agent which increases cleansing power.
Polysorbate 20	None	Stabilises dental products.
Potassium Nitrate	Saltpetre	Helps reduce the sensitivity of teeth.
Potassium Sorbate	E202	Preservative.
Propylene Glycol	None	Helps prevent products from drying out, acts as a thickener and provides sweetness.
Propylene Glycol Alginate	None	Absorbs water to thicken and emulsify.
Propylparaben	None	A preservative and flavouring.
PVM/MS Copolymer	None	Thickens, binds and acts as a foaming agent.
PVP	Poly Vinyl Pyrrolidone	Thickener and stabiliser.
Pyrophosphates	None	Helps prevent the formation of tartar.
Saccharin	None	An artificial sweetener which enhances the flavour of ingredients like mint, cinnamon and other flavourings.
Silica	Silicon Dioxide	A mild abrasive to clean teeth.
Silicon Dioxide	Silica, sand, quartz	A mild abrasive to clean teeth.
Sodium Benzoate	Salt	Preservative.
Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose	None	Binds and gels all the ingredients together.

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Sodium Fluoride	None	Helps prevent tooth decay.
Sodium Hexafluorosilicate	None	Helps prevent tooth decay.
Sodium Hydroxide	None	A detergent which dissolves oils.
Sodium Lauryl Sulphate (SLS)	None	Foaming agent which increases cleansing power.
Sodium Methyl Cocoyl Taurate	Coconut oil	A cleanser and thickening agent.
Sodium Monofluorophosphate	None	Helps prevent tooth decay.
Sodium Perborate	PBS	Anti-septic used to treat gingivitis and other kinds of gingival inflammation.
Sodium Phosphate	Salt of sodium / Phosphoric acid	Preservative.
Sodium Saccharin	None	An artificial sweetener.
Sorbitol	None	Helps prevent products from drying out, acts as a thickener and provides sweetness.
Strontium Salt	None	Helps reduce the sensitivity of teeth.
Sucralose	E955	An artificial sweetener.
Tetrapotassium Pyrophosphate / Tetrasodium Pyrophosphate	None	A thickening agent and cleanser that also has tartar control properties.
Thymol	Thyme	Added for its natural antiseptic properties.
Titanium Dioxide	E171	A thickening agent and colourant.
Triclosan	None	Preservative and anti-bacterial agent.
Trisodium Phosphate	E339	Stain remover and de-greaser.
Xanthan Gum	None	A thickening agent.
Xylitol	None	A naturally occurring sugar substitute which does not cause dental decay.
Zinc Chloride	None	A mild disinfectant to soothe minor mouth irritations.
Zinc Citrate	None	Helps prevent the build-up of plaque.

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