GMO ingredients in body care and cosmetics

Look for these known GMOs* on the ingredient panel.

- AminoSurf-E surfactant (Modular Genetics)
- B-silk (Bolt Threads)
- Brontide butylene glycol (Genomatica)
- Hebelys anti-aging extract (Deinove/Greentech)
- Hemi15 (Amyris)
- Luminity neurosporene carotenoid (Deinove)

- Neossance squalane/hemisqualane (Amyris)
- Nootkatone by Evolva (Evolva)
- Nucelis vitamin D (Cibus)
- Phyt-n-Resist phytene antioxidant (Deinove)
- Valencene by Evolva (Evolva)
- Veri-te Resveratrol (Evolva)
- Zémea propanediol (DuPont/Tate & Lyle)
- KT8Peptide (KT8 Hair)
- NovaColl collagen (Cambrium)
- HumaColl21 collagen (Geltor)
- ElastaPure elastin (Geltor)
- Collume collagen (Geltor)
- NuColl Pro collagen (Geltor)
- Caviance collagen (Geltor)
- Yoli palm oil (Xylome)
- Palmless torula oil (C16 Biosciences)
- Brontide butylene glycol (Geno)

Brands, developers and partnerships making products containing GMOs

Keep an eye out for these products using a listed GMO input.*

- AmorePacific (Neossance squalane/hemisqualane)
- Aprirrorna (Neossance squalane/hemisqualane)
- JLO Beauty (Neossance squalane/hemisqualane)
- L’Oréal (Neossance squalane/hemisqualane)
- Nutrinovate Reserol Beauty (Veri-te resveratrol)
- Shiseido (Neossance squalane/hemisqualane)

Note: Squalene is a popular ingredient in skin care products. Squalene is a popular ingredient in skin care products. It is naturally-occurring in shark liver and olives, and symbio squalene is growing in popularity.

*Known GMOs as defined by the Non-GMO Project Standard.
Pocket Guide to GMOs in Body Care
Skin care, cosmetics, hair products and more

How to use this guide
Sometimes reading the ingredient panel isn’t enough to know how a product was made. Many GMO ingredients are listed on pack the same as their non-GMO counterparts. So, how can we spot genetically modified ingredients? Here’s our pocket guide to GMOs in body care.

Where do GMOs show up in wellness products?
Genetically modified corn, soy and canola can be processed into a variety of ingredients, including oils for soaps and moisturizers, alcohol or citric acid. Also, microorganisms such as yeast or algae can be genetically modified to produce vitamins, fragrances, resveratrol and non-animal-derived collagen, squalane or spider silk. Functional ingredients such as humectants and surfactants can also be GMOs.

What botanicals are being made using genetic engineering?
Some GMO botanicals can include sandalwood, rose, amber, ambergris, oud/agarwood, citrus/orange, grapefruit, patchouli, vanilla, musk and mint.

Watch out for these key marketing terms
Some terms that are often used to describe GMOs include: bioengineered, bioidentical, biofermentation, fermented, synthetic biology, symbio, synthetic ingredients, precision fermentation, precision engineered, engineered yeast, non-transgenic, and specific terms such as trans-resveratrol. Many companies are using sustainability claims, sometimes even labeling their products as “natural.”

GMOs in Body Care
Major GMO ingredients in skin care and cosmetics
Where are GMOs showing up in personal care? Here are the major ingredient categories. If a product contains these ingredients, it could contain GMOs.

• Bakuchiol
• Butylene glycol
• Cannabinoids/CBD/CBG
• Collagen
• Elastin
• Fragrances
• Humectants
• Keratin
• Palm oil
• Resveratrol
• Spider silk
• Squalane/hemisqualane
• Surfactants
• Vitamins