Feminine wipes can contain toxic chemicals linked to cancer, hormone disruption and fertility problems. Long term health impacts of exposure to these chemicals from wipes has never been studied and is largely unknown. Women of color are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemicals in feminine wipes, as they’re more frequent users of these products.

**4. PROBLEMATIC PRESERVATIVES**

- Parabens (methylparaben, propylparaben, ethylparaben, butylparaben)
- MI and CMI (Methylisothiazolinone and Methylchloroisothiazolinone)
- Iodopropynyl butylcarbamate (IPBC)
- Formaldehyde releasers (DIMM-Hydantoin & 2-bromo-2- nitropropane-1,3-diol)
- Formaldehyde is a carcinogen. Impact of formaldehyde exposure to vulvar & vaginal tissue is unstudied and concerning.
- Formaldehyde releasers are regulated in the EU, but no current restrictions exist in USA.
- MI and CMI are well-known skin allergens strictly regulated in the EU, but no current restrictions exist in USA.
- Linked to severe allergies. Well-known skin allergen strictly regulated in the EU, but no current restrictions exist in USA.
- Associated with increased risk of breast cancer and reproductive harm. Linked to severe allergies. Associated with increased risk of breast cancer and reproductive harm.
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**OCTOXYNOL-9**

This is a potent contraceptive drug, which effectively kills sperm. Wipes containing octoxynol-9 are not regulated as contraceptives, nor are they required to have any caution labeling to their potential effect on a woman’s fertility.

**NEUTRESSE™**

Neutresse™ is a trademarked name for an odor-control ingredient found in wipes. Chemicals used in Neutresse™ are not disclosed. The potential hazards of this mystery ingredient are simply unknown.

**ALTERNATIVES TO PRE-MOISTENED WIPES**

- Old school toilet paper can do the trick just fine in most situations.
- Moisten toilet paper with water immediately before use. Keep a small portable spray bottle filled with water in a purse, or bathroom.
- Make your own cloth wipes and wet them with water. Flannel or other soft fabric can be less abrasive than toilet paper.
- For times when you want to use a convenience wipe, read labels and avoid wipes that contain the problematic preservatives & chemicals on this infographic. And be sure to dispose of wipes in the trash, not the toilet!