

# Ban on Cosmetic Testing on Animals



## The Future's Bright for Cosmetic Testing.

**On 1 July 2020, Australia banned animal testing on new ingredients used exclusively in cosmetics.**

Many cosmetic products have not been tested on animals in Australia for years. The ban will safeguard against this type of testing in future, which is something we can be proud of.

The National Retail Association, in partnership with the Australian Government, has created a range of information and resources to help consumers and businesses understand the ban.

Find out more at

[www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au](http://www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au)

### What is banned?

From 1 July 2020, new ingredients used exclusively in cosmetics made or sold in Australia can't use information from animal testing to prove their safety.

The ban applies to most cosmetics sold in Australia, but for safety reasons there are some exceptions to the ban such as ingredients that are also used in other products (for example fragrances used in cleaning products and cosmetics).

### What products are considered cosmetics?

Cosmetics are more than 'make up'. They include many important everyday products used for personal care and cleanliness, oral health, skin health and hair and nail care and include deodorants, perfumes, colognes, toothpaste, lipstick, moisturisers, lotions and makeup.

**As defined by law, a cosmetic is:** any substance intended to be placed on any external part of the human body (including inside the mouth) to change its odour or appearance, clean it, keep it in good condition, protect it or perfume it.

In Australia, cosmetics are regulated by the Government as industrial chemicals.

The ban does not include cosmetics that treat or protect against health conditions, like sunscreens or anti-dandruff shampoos. These products are known as therapeutic goods and are regulated differently in Australia.

### Was animal testing for cosmetics happening in Australia before the ban?

No, animal testing for cosmetic ingredients or products has not occurred in Australia for many years. The ban is one mechanism to protect against this type of testing in the future for cosmetic ingredients both made and imported into Australia.

Internationally, there is a trend away from animal testing in favour of other methods such as computer-simulated tests.

### Will existing products be recalled?

No, existing cosmetics are not affected by the ban – meaning no products will disappear from the shelves. The ban relates to new chemicals used exclusively as cosmetic ingredients introduced on or after 1 July 2020.

### Will the ban impact on the safety of cosmetics?

No. Firstly, many cosmetics have not relied on animal testing for many years.

When information is required to support the introduction of a new cosmetic ingredient, there are a range of alternative testing methods and data sources to be provided, instead of animal test data.

Ingredients in cosmetic products are regulated by the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS). Through this scheme, the Australian Government assess the risks associated with chemicals used as cosmetic ingredients to protect human and environmental health.

### Is 'organic' or 'vegan' the same as 'not tested on animals'?

Not necessarily. Vegan means the product does not include any animal by-products in the ingredients or manufacturing process, it doesn't mean the product hasn't been tested on animals.

Products labelled organic will contain some organic ingredients, but doesn't mean the product hasn't been tested on animals.

## What should I use as a guide to understand if cosmetic products are not tested on animals?

While every cosmetic in Australia is compliant with the ban, there are logos that businesses can choose to use to show that they have gone further to demonstrate their existing products have not been tested on animals.

The three most-recognised logos are:



**Cruelty Free**  
INTERNATIONAL

Leaping Bunny  
(Cruelty Free International)



**crueltyfree**

Beauty without Bunnies  
(PETA)



Choose Cruelty Free  
(CCF Australia)

Note: Not all logos of bunnies or paw prints represent certification programs.

### What do retailers need to do?

Retail businesses do NOT need to take any action regarding the ban, except if you manufacture your own products or import directly.

Retail staff and brand representatives are often the ones answering consumer questions and providing advice on purchases and it's important that you can provide your customers with accurate information should they enquire. We recommend briefing your team and letting them know that more detailed information is available on the website.

Retail businesses and staff can also contact the National Retail Association on 1800 844 946.

Cosmetic manufacturers and retailers who make their own products should already be aware of what the ban covers and Australian safety regulations regarding cosmetic ingredients.

### Where do I find more information?

We recommend visiting [www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au](http://www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au) (or scanning the Code below) for more detailed information and resources.

The website includes:

- Links to the actual legislation
- How to identify cosmetics vs therapeutic goods
- Links to compliance and safety information for manufacturers
- Information on non-animal testing methods
- Information about recognised logo schemes
- Downloadable tools and resources

Scan here to find out more at

[www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au](http://www.animalcosmetictestban.com.au)

