

Boots policy on the testing of cosmetic and toiletry products / Boots Company PLC.

Contributors

Boots Company.

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Policy on the Testing of Cosmetic and Toiletry Products

Boots, as well as being the leading retailer of cosmetics and toiletries, is also a leading manufacturer. Highly qualified and skilled scientists research, develop and evaluate our products to meet the high standards of quality and performance that we set and also to meet legal requirements.

Our policy is to ensure the safety of all of our products, and we realise that many of our customers want to know how this safety record is established.

Q. Do you use animals to test any Boots Brand cosmetic or toiletry products?

A. **No.** Nor do we use any other company or research establishment to do work on our behalf.

Q. Do you use animals to test any ingredients contained within these products?

A. **No.** We obtain our raw ingredients from reputable suppliers and only use ingredients with an established safety record. We do not make any product available for sale unless our medical advisers are satisfied about their safety.

In assessing the ingredients used in our products we, of course, evaluate all background work that has been undertaken. Legal requirements may have dictated that animals would have been used in safety tests as part of that work because no alternative tests were available.

Q. If you don't use animals to test your products, how do you test them?

A. Firstly, we assess the data available on the safety of the ingredient. Secondly, as we are formulating the product, it is tested on human volunteers from staff in our development laboratories. Finally, we test the product on a panel of volunteer users.

Q. *Do you sell in Boots stores any cosmetic or toiletry products that may have been tested on animals?*

A. We do sell products made by other companies that may have required the use of animals to ensure that the product is safe. We do not believe it is right to deny our customers the opportunity to buy the products they want.

However, a significant amount of research is being undertaken to develop alternative procedures aimed at satisfying legal requirements without involving tests on animals and we actively support this research.

At present, Boots is funding a research programme with the College of Medicine at the University of Wales.

We trust that this clearly states our position on the use of animals in testing cosmetic and toiletry products but should you require any further information, please write to:

The Director of Corporate Affairs
The Boots Company PLC
Nottingham NG2 3AA