

The Ingredient Audit: Barrier Compounds

Ingredient	Function	Evidence for Wound Use	Risk
White Petrolatum	Occlusive barrier	Decades of wound-care use; accelerates epithelialisation	Maceration if applied too thickly
Dimethicone	Silicone occlusive	Used in medical barrier creams; highly breathable	Very low irritancy
Lanolin (USP)	Semi-occlusive	Effective TEWL reduction	Contact allergen in 1.5–2.5% of dermatitis patients
Panthenol (B5)	Humectant	Promotes fibroblast proliferation in vitro	Low irritation