## Benzophenone-3 (Oxybenzone) Fact Sheet

Benzophenone-3 (oxybenzone) is used in many sunscreens and some other personal care products to protect skin from sun damage. Benzophenone-3 is also added to packaging and some consumer products, such as cosmetics and paints, to protect the products from sun damage.

### Benzophenone-3 is found in

- Many sunscreens.
- Sun-protective personal care products, such as some lotions, lip balms, and cosmetics.
- Some perfumes, shampoos, conditioners, and nail polish.
- Plastic packaging for some food and consumer products.
- Some protective coatings, such as varnish and oil-based paint.

### Possible health concerns

Scientists are still studying how benzophenone-3 may affect people’s health. There is concern that benzophenone-3:

- May interfere with the body’s natural hormones.

### Possible ways to reduce exposure

- Wash off sunscreen and sun-protective products once you are out of the sun.
- Eat more fresh food and less packaged food, which might help reduce exposure to benzophenone-3 from some plastic packaging.

### Importance of sun safety

Sun exposure is known to damage skin and cause skin cancer. Applying a broad-spectrum sunscreen is only one of the important ways to shield against the sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays. You should also:

- Reduce or avoid exposure to direct sunlight when UV rays are strongest, usually between 10 am and 4 pm. When possible, seek shade.
- Wear protective clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses.

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**For more information:**

Sun safety tips: [http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Sun-Safety.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-play/Pages/Sun-Safety.aspx)