

# Equi-Soft™ Foam Hand Soap

## Product Information

### What is the active ingredient in Equi-Soft Foam?

The active ingredient in Equi-Soft Foam is benzalkonium chloride, which is a type of quaternary ammonium compound (quat). Equi-Soft Foam uses a 0.55% concentration of benzalkonium chloride.

### Some hard surface disinfectants are quaternary ammonium compounds. Is it safe for me to use a product that contains quat on my skin?

Yes. It is safe to use products that contain quaternary ammonium on your skin.

Quaternary ammonium compounds have been used in skin care products since the 1930's. In addition to hand soap, benzalkonium chloride is the same ingredient used in many common consumer products, including eye drops (Visine®), nasal sprays, antiseptic wipes, mouthwashes, and wound antiseptics (Bactine®).

### Could this soap cause an allergic reaction?

Often what is thought to be an allergic reaction to skin care products is actually irritation or contact dermatitis. It is unlikely that using Equi-Soft Foam would cause a true allergic reaction. Equi-Soft Foam was formulated to be gentle. Clinical testing has demonstrated that the formula offers the mildness of the market leading non-medicated soap.\* As with any hand hygiene product, if you experience skin irritation, please contact your Ecolab representative.

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\*Data on file and available in the Equi-Soft™ Research Bulletin

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### Are there any adverse effects of extended use of quat similar to the concerns with triclosan?

The concerns regarding the long term effects of triclosan are based specifically on its chemistry. Benzalkonium chloride (the active ingredient in Equi-Soft Foam) is substantially different than triclosan.

Benzalkonium chloride has been used in personal care products for decades with no known concerns related to the chemical accumulating in the human body, causing bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics or affecting the environment, which are the main concerns of triclosan in consumer products.

### Why does Equi-Soft Foam smell different than other soaps I have used.

Most ingredients used in personal care products have a unique scent. The ingredients used in this soap are no exception.

Scent is a subjective feature of a product and can be perceived differently by different users. In developing Equi-Soft Foam, we identified the type and level of masking fragrance after conducting extensive research and testing with healthcare worker panels to determine the most acceptable balance.

### Is Equi-Soft Foam compatible with products that contain CHG?

Yes. Equi-Soft Foam is compatible with chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) products.



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