22 Halal Cosmetics

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About 25 to 30 years ago, the term halal was not used by the world’s cosmetic industry. Today, it has become an important consideration of the industry. Just as Muslims are careful about what they eat, more and more Muslim women are now conscious of what they put on their skin, leading to the rise in halal-certified skin care and makeup products (Swidi et al., 2010).

There are various estimates of the current size of the halal cosmetic market ranging from USD $5 billion to $14 billion per year. In 2012, the estimated expenditure for halal cosmetics by Muslim consumers was $26 billion and by 2018 this is expected to reach $39 billion (Shikoh, 2013). These estimates probably vary because of different data collection methods in different countries and because all products have been considered halal in many predominately Muslim countries. About half of these sales are in the Middle East, with $2.1 billion in Saudi Arabia alone. Halal products are very quickly entering the mainstream markets in Europe and the U.S.

Halal-certified cosmetics and skin care products are expected to be pure and wholesome. Halal personal care products in the market today include hair shampoos, conditioners, bath and shower gels, cleansers, creams, lotions, talc and baby powders, toners, make up, perfumes, eau de colognes, and oral care products (Ahmad et al., 2015). These products do not contain alcohol or pork-derived ingredients, and are manufactured in a humane and cruelty-free manner. Muslims are becoming more discerning consumers, and along with rising income, has led to growth of this market, which then represents a new opportunity for cosmetic and personal care companies (Ireland and Abdollah Rajabzadeh, 2011). Non-Muslims also purchase halal cosmetics because of the perception that halal cosmetic products are safer to use than non-halal products (Hornby and Yucel, 2009; Shah Alam and Mohamed Sayuti, 2011). Muslim women love to be beautiful. But those who are devout can face obstacles. What if their cosmetics contain forbidden ingredients such as alcohol, beef- or pig-derived collagen, gelatin, or beef- or pig-derived fats and their many derivative products?

GUIDELINES FOR HALAL COSMETICS

The presence of ethanol in cosmetics is of concern to Muslim consumers; therefore, according to most authorities, only industrial alcohol is permitted (Hashim and Mat Hashim, 2013). See Chapter 16 for details. The other rules are similar to those for food, that is, all ingredients must be halal, and it must be produced in such a way that there is no contact with najis or haram materials. In addition, it must not harm the user (Mukhtar and Mohsin Butt, 2012).

Ingredients derived from the fur, hair, and related materials of land animals that are halal, soil, chemicals, synthetic materials, plants and microorganisms on land,
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air, or water, are all halal except those that are hazardous and/or mixed with najis (Hassali et al., 2015).

The cosmetic industry and the Muslim consumer needs to pay more attention to the chemicals and compounds listed as ingredients of cosmetics. Some of the ingredients that can be sourced from animals—oftentimes from pigs include: hyaluronic acid and collagen that may be derived from cow or pig placenta. Keratin is derived from animal hair, nails, and hooves. Stearic acid is a fatty substance that may come from a pig’s stomach. In most countries, the sources of cosmetic ingredients do not have to be listed. One may be able to check the company’s website or give them a call, but more reliable is for the product to be certified by a reliable halal certifying agency (Salleh and Hussin, 2013). Certified halal cosmetics are designed and formulated for Muslim woman but can be used by everyone. In fact, there are many consumers who are not Muslim that are drawn to these products for eco- and ethical reasons. In particular, the cruelty-free products.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which oversees the cosmetics industry in the U.S., cannot force cosmetics companies to conduct safety assessments and largely allows the industry to make its own decisions about ingredients. Animal ingredients are widely used in cosmetics; some of the ingredients are unavoidable or are difficult to substitute. There is lack of legislative guidelines and some of these ingredients are masked by un-decipherable chemical names (Rajagopal et al., 2011).

PARTIAL LIST OF POTENTIALLY QUESTIONABLE INGREDIENTS

**Allantoin**
A botanical extract from the comfrey plant. It may also be derived from uric acid obtained from the urine of cows and other mammals. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

**Ambergris**
It is a solid, waxy, flammable, dull grey or blackish color product produced in the digestive system of sperm whales. Freshly produced ambergris has a marine, fecal odor. However, as it ages, it acquires a sweet, earthy scent commonly likened to the fragrance of rubbing alcohol without the vaporous chemical astringency.

**Animal Hair**
Animal hair (horse) can be used to make brushes, including cosmetic brushes.

**Arachidonic Acid**
A liquid unsaturated fatty acid that is found in the liver, brain, glands, and fat of animals and humans. Generally isolated from animal livers. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.
Arachidyl Propionate

Arachidyl propionate is an amber-colored semisolid wax that can be obtained from animal fats. Arachidyl propionate melts upon contact with the human body, leaving a non-oily feeling to the skin (Khan and Abourashed, 2011). Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Boar Bristles

Hair from wild or captive hogs can be used to make “natural” toothbrushes and shaving brushes.

Carotene, Pro-vitamin A, Beta Carotene

A color pigment found in many animal tissues and in all plants. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Castor—Castoreum

It is a creamy substance with a strong odor, originally from muskrat and beaver genitals but now typically made synthetically and as such can be halal (Khan and Abourashed, 2011).

Chitosan

A fiber derived from crustacean shells. This ingredient may be of concern for some Muslim consumers who do not accept crustaceans as halal (Jimtaisong and Saewan, 2014).

Cholesterol

A steroid alcohol in all animal fats and oils, nervous tissue, egg yolk, and blood. It can be derived from lanolin. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Civet Oil

The unctuous secretion painfully scraped from a gland very near the genital organs of civet cats (Khan and Abourashed, 2011).

Collagen

It is the main structural protein of the various connective tissues in animals. It is a naturally occurring substance found in the skin, muscle, bones, and tendons of animals and generally obtained from pigs or cattle. In recent years, fish collagens have become available. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.
COLORS AND DYES

Some red pigments such as cochineal and carmine are obtained from crushed female cochineal insects and may not be acceptable to some Muslim consumers.

Cysteine, L-Form

An amino acid from hair that can come from duck feather and human hairs. Can also be synthesized. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Cystine

An amino acid obtained from chemical reactions, urine, and horse-hair. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Emu Oil

Obtained from a flightless ratite bird native to Australia that is now being farmed. It is a halal animal.

Fatty Acids and Fatty Acid Mixtures

Can be one or any mixtures of liquid and solid fatty acids derived from either plants or animals.

Feathers

These can be obtained from slaughtered birds and ground up for use as an ingredient. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

Gelatin

It is a translucent, colorless, brittle (when dry), flavorless solid substance. It is derived from collagen (see “collagen”) (Schrieber and Gareis, 2007). Halal-certified gelatin will be acceptable for halal cosmetics.

Glycerin/Glycerol

Glycerin, also called glycerol, is an odorless chemical. It can be obtained from animal or plant sources. Halal certification is required for the glycerin.

Hyaluronic Acid

A protein found in umbilical cords and the fluids around the joints. May not be halal suitable.
HYDROLYZED ANIMAL PROTEIN AND HYDROLYZED VEGETABLE PROTEIN
Besides a concern for the source of the raw material, that is, the protein, the source of the enzymes used for the hydrolysis must also be considered. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

KERATIN
Keratin is the key structural material making up the outer layer of human skin. A cow’s skin, fur, nails, hooves, horns, feathers, and teeth all contain keratin. It can also be hydrolyzed. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

LANOLIN, LANOLIN ACIDS, WOOL FAT, AND WOOL WAX
A product obtained from the oil glands of sheep and also extracted from their wool. If obtained from a live sheep or goat it is halal, but if from a slaughtered sheep, the sheep must be slaughtered halal.

LARD
The fat of pigs (Indrasti et al., 2010) and cannot be used in halal cosmetics.

MINK OIL
The mink is not a halal animal. Therefore, mink oil will not be suitable for halal cosmetics.

MUSK (OIL)
Dried secretion obtained from musk deer, beaver, muskrat, civet cat, and otter genitals. All of these are haram animals.

MYRISTIC ACID
This is a fatty acid typically derived from nut oils but occasionally can be obtained from animal sources. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

OLEIC ACID
Obtained from various animal and vegetable fats and oils. Commercially it is often obtained from edible or inedible tallow, an animal fat. Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

PALMITIC ACID
It is the most common fatty acid (saturated) found in animals, plants, and microorganisms. To make sure its halal status, a certificate will be required for halal cosmetics.
**Halal Cosmetics**

**Panthenol, Dexpanthenol, Vitamin B-Complex Factor and Pro-vitamin B-5**

It can come from animal, plant, or synthetic sources. Therefore, a halal certificate will be required to use in halal cosmetics.

**Placenta**

Obtained from the uterus of animals and used in cosmetics. If animal is halal slaughtered then it can be used for halal cosmetics.

**Polypeptides**

See “Hydrolyzed Animal Protein and Hydrolyzed Plant Protein.” To make sure of its halal status, a certificate will be required.

**Pristane**

Obtained from the liver oil of sharks and from whale ambergris.

**Snail Slime**

It is an external bodily secretion of snails.

**Stearic Acid**

It is more abundant in animal fat than vegetable fat. Mostly obtained from cows and sheep, as well as fatty substance taken from the stomachs of pigs. From vegetable sources it will be halal. From animal sources, as long as animal is slaughtered according to halal requirement, it can be used in halal cosmetics.

**Stearyl Alcohol**

Stearyl alcohol is a fatty alcohol generally derived from stearic acid (see “Stearic Acid”). Requires halal supervision to be acceptable or halal certification required.

**Turtle Oil**

The oil derived from the muscles and genital glands of the giant sea turtle. It melts at about 25°C. Turtles are haram and its oil should not be used for halal cosmetics.

**REFERENCES**


