

# UV Absorbents

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It is widely known that ultraviolet (UV) rays are linked with skin cancer and the aging of the skin. Cosmetics and personal care products with UV filters, including sunscreen, are widely used to protect the skin, while helping to maintain people's health.

UV filters used in these products are divided into two groups: UV absorbers and UV scattering agents. UV absorbers absorb UV and convert it into heat or other forms of energy to prevent UV from penetrating into skin. UV scattering agents scatter and reflect UV on the surface of the agents, preventing UV from reaching skin cells.

There have been some concerns that the usage of certain UV absorbers may cause the bleaching of coral reefs. As a result, there are some areas that have coral reefs, including Hawaii, where they have decided to ban the sale of sunscreen products which contain certain UV absorbers. On the other hand, many environmental experts have stated that climate change and ocean acidification are the major causes of inhibited coral growth and the bleaching of coral reefs. It has been reported that the concentrations of UV absorbers are low enough to have no environmental impact, or are barely detectable in those ocean areas.

Kao complies with the laws and regulations of all countries and regions in which we operate. Additionally, we conduct rigorous safety assessments and perform a wide range of product-use tests based on the Kao safety standard\*, so that you can use our products safely. We continuously explore new scientific findings relevant to the ingredients we use and review the safety of our in-market products. We are committed to continuing to develop our products for a better customer experience and increased product safety.

We offer UV absorber-free products for those who prefer them.



\*Kao Safety Standards for Products

<https://www.kao.com/global/en/sustainability/topics-you-care-about/safety-quality/kao-quality/>