

Skin lightening can be a pain

People use skin lightening products for complex social and personal reasons.

Many of these products are illegal in the UK and have been found to contain harmful substances.

Illegal skin creams have not been safety tested.

There are no guarantees that they were made in sanitary conditions, and no assurances that they are safe to use.



Illegal skin lightening creams can cause conditions like acne and eczema. They can also result in permanent disfigurement and serious long-term health problems.



Know what you're buying

Some skin-lightening creams are legal, but many are banned because of their harmful ingredients.

These dangerous banned ingredients include hydroquinone, mercury and licensed medicines like corticosteroids.

Creams containing these substances are illegal in the UK and Europe for safety reasons.

Skin-lightening creams illegally being sold in the UK have been found to contain twice the amount of active steroid ingredients that are allowed in prescription products.

Just because something is for sale, it doesn't mean it is safe.

Always read the label

Cosmetic products for sale in the UK must display the manufacturer or importer's name and address, and the ingredients.

Never use skin lightening products without first discussing with your dermatologist or doctor. They will advise a safe course of action that is right for you.

Never use illegal skin lightening products purchased from shops or over the internet.

Never use skin lightening products on children.



Chartered Trading Standards Institute

For more information, visit:

www.tradingstandards.uk/cosmetics