

# "Cosmeceutical"

Consumers and manufacturers sometimes have questions about the term "cosmeceutical."

The term "cosmeceutical" has no meaning under the law. While the [\*\*Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act \(/RegulatoryInformation/LawsEnforcedbyFDA/FederalFoodDrugandCosmeticActFDCA/default.htm\)\*\*](#) (FD&C Act) does not recognize the term "cosmeceutical," the cosmetic industry uses this word to refer to cosmetic products that have medicinal or drug-like benefits.

A product can be a [\*\*drug, a cosmetic or both \(/Cosmetics/GuidanceRegulation/LawsRegulations/ucm074201.htm\)\*\*](#). The FD&C Act defines drugs as those products that cure, treat, mitigate or prevent disease or that affect the structure or function of the human body, if a product makes such claims it will be regulated as a drug. Cosmetics are intended to beautify, promote attractiveness, alter appearance or cleanse; they are not approved by FDA for sale nor are they intended to effect structure or function of the body.

## More resources:

- [\*\*Cosmetic Labeling and Label Claims \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Regulations/default.htm\)\*\*](#): An introduction to cosmetic labeling requirements
- [\*\*Cosmetics Q&A: Personal Care Products: \(/Cosmetics/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm136560.htm\)\*\*](#) A quick look at how different "personal care products" are labeled
- [\*\*Is It a Cosmetic, a Drug, or Both? \(or Is It Soap?\) \(/Cosmetics/GuidanceRegulation/LawsRegulations/ucm074201.htm\)\*\*](#): Information on the legal differences between cosmetics, drugs, and soap
- [\*\*Warning Letters Address Drug Claims Made for Products Marketed as Cosmetics \(/Cosmetics/ComplianceEnforcement/WarningLetters/ucm081086.htm\)\*\*](#): Warning Letters issued by FDA citing unapproved drug claims

July 6, 2017. This document is current and is updated only when necessary.

## Resources for You

- [\*\*Is It a Cosmetic, a Drug, or Both? \(Or Is It Soap?\) \(/Cosmetics/GuidanceRegulation/LawsRegulations/ucm074201.htm\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Warning Letters Address Drug Claims Made for Products Marketed as Cosmetics \(/Cosmetics/ComplianceEnforcement/WarningLetters/ucm081086.htm\)\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Import Alert #66-38: Skin Care Products Labeled as Anti-Aging Creams \(http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cms\\_ia/importalert\\_188.html\)\*\*](#)

## More in Labeling Claims

[\*\*\(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/default.htm\)\*\*](#)

**["Alcohol Free" \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005201.htm\)](/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005201.htm)**

▶ **["Cosmeceutical" \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm127064.htm\)](/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm127064.htm)**

**["Cruelty Free"/"Not Tested on Animals" \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005202.htm\)](/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005202.htm)**

**["Hypoallergenic" Cosmetics \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005203.htm\)](/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm2005203.htm)**

**["Organic" Cosmetics \(/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm203078.htm\)](/Cosmetics/Labeling/Claims/ucm203078.htm)**