

**Information from Aura Cacia
Regarding Recent Concern About 1,4-Dioxane in LA Times Article**

The results of a recent Organic Consumers Association-sponsored testing of personal care products (which included one sample of Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Bubble Bath) indicated that the sample might have contained tiny amounts (parts per million) of 1,4-dioxane.

The Aura Cacia Aromatherapy Bubble Bath product tested contained sodium myreth sulfate, a foaming surfactant that is produced through a process known as *ethoxylation*. In the process, ethylene oxide is added to a fatty acid (from coconut oil), to form a foaming cleanser. At the time that Aura Cacia formulated the Bubble Bath with sodium myreth sulfate, it wasn't clear that 1,4-dioxane was a potential issue. We felt that sodium myreth sulfite, in combination with other non-ethoxylated cleansers, was the best alternative to the ubiquitous sodium laurel/laureth sulfates, which were unacceptable due to their industrial-strength harshness.

We are concerned about the increasing scrutiny of 1,4-dioxane and are exploring alternative formulas that are free of ALL ethoxylated compounds.

Meanwhile, The Food and Drug Administration, which regulates cosmetics, has set no standards for 1,4-dioxane. The FDA says the current levels "do not present a hazard to consumers," although it has advised the industry to reduce amounts in cosmetics as much as possible.