

Paraffin based skin products (emollient creams)



These are used by many people on a daily basis to help manage different dry skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and bed sores. The creams, lotions or gels are easily transferred from skin onto clothing, bedding and bandages. Research has shown that the dried-on cream makes the fabric more flammable and the resulting fire burns quickly and intensely.

To prevent this happening, follow the following safety advice:

- Do not smoke or use naked flames or be near people who are smoking or naked flames when using these products;
- Make sure your clothes and bedding are changed regularly (preferably daily) as the paraffin soaks into the fabrics and can potentially be a fire hazard. Wash clothing and bedding on high temperatures to help prevent the build-up of product;
- Take care that the paraffin does not soak into chairs, seating or other furniture;
- Tell your relatives or carers about your treatment and alert them to the risks;
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you normally smoke – they will be able to offer advice to stop smoking.

If you would like to receive a visit to your home or receive advice by telephone, please contact us with your name, address and telephone number mentioning 'Dementia Safety First'.

By email safeandwell@bedsfire.gov.uk

By telephone 0333 399 0031



Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service