

The word 'cosmetic' comes from the Greek *kosmos*, which means 'order', 'world' or 'ornament'. In ancient Greece beauty was linked to order and a beautiful woman was compared with the perfection of nature. The origins of the word have, of course, long been forgotten and unfortunately many of the products that we now use to pamper ourselves are harmful to the environment. However, there is some good news. Beauty houses are increasingly aware of the effect that their products have on the environment and are not only using more ecofriendly ingredients but are also changing their packaging. We show you what to look for.

1 Check the logo

Do you want to know if the beauty house that you support uses ecofriendly practices? Look for the following logos or words on the packaging:

'Biodegradable'

This means the product and/or the packaging will break down safely and reasonably quickly to the original raw materials.

Why use the product?

It doesn't contribute to soil, water or air pollution.

Hemporium Cosmetology Eco Friendly Liquid Soap (R45)



'Fair Trade certified' and 'Community friendly'
The manufacturer uses sustainable resources, complies with socially responsible standards and pays fair wages.

Why use the product?

You are helping to empower disadvantaged communities and to ensure sustainable development.

Pure Cold Pressed Baobab Oil (R95 for 50ml)

Rabbit logo

This logo of the Beauty Without Cruelty organisation indicates that the product has not been tested on animals.

Why use the product?

You are helping to ensure that fewer (and in the future it is hoped no) animals suffer in the formulation of beauty products.

Innox Skin Balance Oil-Free Rebalancing Lotion SPF15 (R109,95)



'Recyclable'

The packaging is suitable for reuse.

Why use the product?

You are helping to reduce soil, water and air pollution.

Woolworths Cleanse Skin Balancing & Cleansing 2 in 1 Foam (R75)



USDA, Australian Certified Organic (ACO) and Soil Association

These independent organisations certify that a product is organic.

Why use the product?

Research has shown that

manufacturing an organic product uses half the energy that is needed to make a similar non-organic product, and less energy means fewer greenhouse gases.

Miessence

Certified Organic Rejuvenating Skin Conditioner (R371,93) >>



Proudly South African logo

This product is made in South Africa. Local beauty products include Annique, Environ, Innox, Nimue, Willa Krause and Placécol.

Why use the product? Apart from the fact that our local products are just as good as their international counterparts, they help to create work for South Africans and fewer greenhouses gases are released in transporting the product to the consumer.

Environ Ionzyme C-Quence Eye Gel (R220)

