Our FORMULATION CHARTER

More naturality day after day...
“We are told that in Provence beauty secrets can be found in plants. It’s in our laboratories that these secrets are discovered.”

- Jean-Louis Pierrisnard, R&D Deputy Director for Scientific Communication
"increasingly natural formulas"

L’OCCITANE has been using the key principles of phytotherapy* and aromatherapy** to develop formulas for more than 40 years. We are committed to protecting the planet and to limiting our impact on the environment at every stage of the product life-cycle.

We use more than 300 ingredients that come from plant origins and we prioritise these natural ingredients when creating our formulas. We work with 110 farmers and around 10,000 pickers and, together, cultivate and harvest more than 5,200 hectares of land.

We source traceable ingredients from a unique network of trusted local suppliers. We select these suppliers carefully and build long-lasting relationships. The quality of our ingredients is of utmost importance (protected designation of origin, organic farming and sustainable agriculture) and we ensure that high quality ingredients are used at the right concentration levels in our products.

Day after day, year after year, we do everything we can to offer you increasingly natural formulas, and we are continuously striving to challenge our methods so that we can keep improving.

Innovation is at the heart of our mission and we have a team of experts that represent 20 scientific disciplines (formulators, agronomists, microbiologists, biologists, toxicologists, dermatologists...). These experts dedicate their time to discovering the new textures and properties that our natural active ingredients can offer, and to proving their efficiency. We are proud of our innovations and duly protect them. As of today, we have filed 70 patents.

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* Phytotherapy (phyto, plant) is an ancient and traditional medicine based on the use of the natural plant properties.

** Aromatherapy is one of the major areas of herbal medicine. It is a soft medicine based on the use of the natural properties of essential oils.
At L’OCCITANE, we endeavour to enhance the natural and biodegradable characteristics of our products to reduce their impact on the environment.

The quest to be more natural is a continual objective and driver behind our R&D. The naturality of our ingredients and formulas enables us to create products that have pleasant textures and proven efficiency. By using ingredients of natural origin, we also ensure a sustainable supply chain, whilst respecting the biodiversity of our planet. A great example of this is our sustainable immortelle plantation in Corsica. When we first discovered the astonishing properties of the wild immortelle that grows in Corsica, we decided to protect it by partnering with local producers to create several plots of land that could be farmed organically and sustainably.

Our ingredients are subject to rigorous selection and quality controls. We pay particular attention to the traceability of our key ingredients, such as immortelle, shea butter, verbena, lavender and almond, and guarantee the traceability from harvest to the finished product.

Our internal team of agronomists regularly audit our suppliers to ensure that they comply with our strict guidelines, whilst also collaborating with them as “trusted partners” to continuously improve our supply chains.

ECO-FRIENDLY

We promote eco-friendly manufacturing for our ingredients by using energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies, such as distillation (to make essential oils and floral waters), plant maceration and cold pressing (to make plant oils).

Pollution is one of our greatest concerns and we work hard to minimise our impact on the environment on a daily basis.

We therefore prioritise ingredients that are easily biodegradable, such as plant oils, essential oils and floral waters, and prioritise packaging that is made from recycled materials, renewable resources or materials sourced from sustainably managed forests. We also design packaging that is easy to recycle and offer eco-refills for several products.
WE ARE COMMITTED TO SAFETY

CONSUMER SAFETY

Consumer safety has always and will always be a top priority. We manufacture and control the quality of our products before launching them to market and impose the strictest international quality and regulatory standards.

A team of experts (toxicologists, dermatologists, ophthalmologists, doctors...) evaluate product safety and ensure that we adhere to the most stringent international safety standards.

Skin tolerance is tested on all types of skin, including sensitive skin, using dermatological and ophthalmological controls.

At L’OCCITANE, we ensure that all (100%) new products are subject to rigorous clinical testing. This amounts to around 1,200 clinical tests per year.

PRODUCT SAFETY

Every day, 30 people are dedicated to ensuring that our products are safe and conform to regulation. Their work starts at the design stage and continues throughout the entire marketing life-cycle.

• Evaluating raw materials

We start the process by thoroughly examining our raw materials. These need to meet our rigorous standards in terms of quality, chemical composition and existing toxicological data.

Our expert toxicologists provide recommendations about how these raw materials should be used and determine the maximum safe concentration level for use in a product. Various parameters are considered, such as rinse-off or leave-on products, target consumer age, surface area for applying the product and frequency of application.

• Confirming product safety

We confirm the safety of all of our finished products for use under normal conditions. To do so, we subject all of our products to safety tests and clinical studies, using volunteers who correspond to particular target consumer groups (by age, sex and skin types).

• Monitoring marketed products

Lastly, we monitor the consumer safety of our products throughout the entire marketing life-cycle, managed by our cosmetovigilance specialists that collect and analyse customer feedback.

* Safety: does not cause harmful action.

"...1,200 clinical tests per year to ensure product safety."

"...our skincare products are tested on several skin types."

WE THRIVE FOR EFFICIENCY

The effectiveness of our ingredients is proven through in-vitro laboratory tests and state-of-the-art prediction methods. However, we always complement this with additional consumer tests and in-vivo clinical studies.

Our clinical studies are carried out by independent institutes. They use dermatological checks in real-life conditions, or instrumental measurements on a panel of volunteers.

We conduct around 1,200 clinical and sensory tests, enabling us to ensure that our products are both effective and enjoyable.

The effectiveness of our skincare products is evaluated on all different skin types, using a minimum of 800 applications.
What we PREFER TO USE

INGREDIENTS FROM PROVENCE and THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

ESSENTIAL OILS
over 40 oils such as immortelle, lavender, cade, myrtle or rosemary

FLORAL WATERS
such as verbena, rose, lavender or immortelle

PLANT MACERATES*

PLANT OILS
over 20 oils, such as sweet almond, evening primrose or borage

PLANT BUTTERS
such as shea, coconut or almond

PLANT EXTRACTS
such as oily or aqueous extracts

NATURAL EXFOLIERS
such as sugar, salt and almond hulls

NATURAL ANTIOXIDANTS
such as rosemary extract

NATURAL GELIFIANTS

MINERAL COLORANTS

GMO-FREE ingredients

GLUTEN FREE ingredients

BIODEGRADABLE ingredients

WATER
purified, skin-friendly water obtained by a triple filtration technique

*obtained by maceration of plants in water or oil.
ANIMAL MATTER
or any by-product of animal origin, except for bee products such as honey, propolis (bee glue) and royal jelly

PARABENS (Preservative)
as these are suspected to be endocrine disruptors

TRICLOSAN (Preservative)
as it is suspected to be an endocrine disruptor

DMDM HYDANTOIN (Preservative)
as it generates formaldehyde and is classified CMR (Carcinogenic Mutagenic and Reprotoxic)

BHA (Butylated Hydroxyanisole - Antioxidant)
as it is suspected to be an endocrine disruptor

BHT (Butylated Hydroxytoluene - Antioxidant)
as it is suspected to be an endocrine disruptor

BENZOPHENONES 1 AND 3 (Anti-UV sunscreen)
as these are suspected to be endocrine disruptors, as well as proven to be harmful for the environment, notably corals

CYCLOTETRASILOXANE (D4 - Silicone)
as it is suspected of to be an endocrine disruptor, as well as harmful for the environment

PHTHALATES (Fixing agents)
as they are suspected to be endocrine disruptors

MICROBEADS (Solid plastic particles)
as these are particularly harmful for aquatic environments

What we DO NOT USE
What we
USE IN MODERATION

and for which we are constantly looking for more natural and "green" alternatives

PHENOXYETHANOL
used as a preservative to maintain the quality of the formula over time

SILICONES
used to provide a silky texture and a soft non-sticky finish, facilitating product application

ETHYLPHEXYL METHOXYCINNAMATE
used as an anti-UV sunscreen that protects the skin and the product from harmful sunrays

PEG
used as emulsifiers that provide a pleasant texture and maintain the quality of the formula over time, or as cleaning or foaming agents that help enhance foam formation when the product is being applied

SULFATES
used as emulsifiers or foaming agents to provide a pleasant texture, contribute to the uniform distribution of the product, and maintain the quality and stability of the formula over time

MINERAL OIL DERIVATIVES
isoparaffin, ozokerite fatty substances used to improve sensoriality and maintain the quality of the formula over time

PHMB (Polyhexamethylene Biguanide)
used as a preservative to maintain the quality of the formula over time

DISODIUM EDTA
used as a stabiliser as, when combined with other ingredients, it contributes to the stability of the formula over time.

ALLERGENS
found in perfumes or natural plant extracts, listing is compulsory, even if the concentration is very low

FRAGRANCES
our perfumes are mostly built around a core of natural essences and all satisfy a stringent components charter, respecting the ban on phthalates, polycyclic musks or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons PAHs

USE IN MODERATION