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**Are Methacrylates in Gel Nails?**  
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In recent years there has been significant growth in an alternative to acrylic nail products known as “gel nails.” One way to distinguish between these alternatives is that acrylic nails are air dried, whereas gel nails usually are cured with ultraviolet light (UV) or a light emitting diode (LED).

MPA is not an authoritative source of information on artificial nail technology; however, MPA’s limited investigations indicate that none of the substances represented by MPA are components of gel nail formulations. The substances represented by MPA are methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, iso-butyl methacrylate, and 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate.

When researching or reporting on chemicals in cosmetic nail products, please note that chemicals with similar names can have very different properties and uses. To avoid inaccuracies, precise identification of the chemicals in a product is important.

For information on MPA’s position on use of methacrylic acid and unreacted methacrylate monomers in artificial nail products, please click [here](#).