

That Amazing ... Tea Tree Oil!



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To trace the history of the “healing Tea Trees”, we’d have to start in New South Wales, Australia, the only place in the world where the *Melaleuca alternifolia* tree yields the “real” Tea Tree oil. The Aborigines first discovered the medicinal qualities of their many “healing trees”. They did not become commonly named as “Tea Trees” until 1770, when Captain Cook and his crew used the leaves to brew a refreshing “tea”. Fast forward to the early 1920’s, when the Chief Chemist at the Museum of Applied Technology, Arts and Sciences in Sydney, extracted the oil of the *Melaleuca alternifolia* and announced that yes indeed! It did have antiseptic and anti-bacterial properties – and was non-toxic, and non-irritating. In the Medical Journal of Australia, it was identified as “A New Australian Germicide”.

By the start of World War 2, Tea Tree oil from the *Melaleuca alternifolia* had earned its reputation as a miracle healer. It was medically recognized for the successful treatment of a whole range of conditions including:

- Ear, nose and throat infections: tonsillitis, gingivitis, pyorrhea, etc.
- Gynecological infections: Candida, thrush, etc.
- Nail infections: paronychia, tinea, etc.
- Skin infections: impetigo, pediculosis, ringworm, etc.
- Dental nerve capping
- Hemorrhages, wounds, first aid, etc.
- And a wide range of other contagious and non-contagious fungal, bacterial and parasitic infections
- Not to mention all the many and varied veterinary applications

A bottle of Tea Tree oil was a standard Government Issue in Australian Army and Navy first aid kits. The production of Tea Tree oil was considered of such great importance that bush cutters were exempt from doing national service.

There are many, many applications for Tea Tree oil, including:

- Antibacterial Soaps
- Acne Creams and Lotions
- Moisturizing Creams & Lotions – especially helpful with eczema and psoriasis
- Oral/Dental products – for bad breath, gum disease, “pockets in the gum”, and canker sores
- Hair care Products – helpful with dandruff too

- Parasiticide and Insect Repellent – great for relieving itching, head lice, etc.
- Antifungal Creams and Foot Care Products – athlete’s foot, ringworm, warts, etc.
- Personal Care Products – deodorant, cosmetics, sunscreen, aftershave, bubble bath, etc.
- Burn Gels – alleviates pain and infection, cool the burn, accelerates healing
- Hand & Nail Care – great for nail fungus
- Anti-viral – Herpes virus, cold sores, warts, etc.
- Pet Care – skin problems, wounds, insect bites and stings, and ringworm, insect repellent
- Household Cleaning & Laundry – crayon, permanent marker, paint, sticky glue, etc. A natural Solvent and anti-microbial surface cleaner.

A word of caution: quality matters. There are many oils that can technically be called “Tea Tree oil” or “Melaleuca oil”. There are over 150 species of Melaleuca trees, but there is only one Melaleuca alternifolia. This should be stated on the label. It should also contain more than 35% Terpinen 4-ol and less than 10% Cineole.

Tea Tree oil of the *Melaleuca alternifolia* is a uniquely complex substance that is truly one of “nature’s best” and one of nature’s most potent, remarkable and useful gifts. Experience it yourself!

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