

The term skin flora (also commonly referred to as skin microbiota) refers to the [microorganisms](#) which reside on the [skin](#), typically human skin.

Many of them are bacteria of which there are around 1000 species upon human skin from nineteen phyla.

Most are found in the superficial layers of the [epidermis](#) and the upper parts of hair follicles.

Skin flora is usually non-pathogenic, and either commensal (are not harmful to their host) or mutualistic (offer a benefit). The benefits bacteria can offer include preventing transient pathogenic organisms from colonizing the skin surface, either by competing for nutrients, secreting chemicals against them, or stimulating the skin's immune system.

However, resident microbes can cause skin diseases and enter the blood system, creating life-threatening diseases, particularly in immunosuppressed people.

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