

## **SKINERGY Leg Covers - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the warranty?**

**RSL**Steeper provides 3 months warranty from dispatch. Warranty provides for exchange or credit against manufacturing defects. Damage caused during installation or by footwear together with accidental holing or tearing under circumstances that we cannot control is not covered by this warranty.

Proof of damage is by return to your supplier, stating the order number and date of receipt. Under some circumstances a high quality digital image, showing the area of damage, providing the information required and the circumstances of failure, e-mailed to the supplier or [sales@rslsteeper](mailto:sales@rslsteeper) may also be accepted.

### **Will SKINERGY leg covers make my leg waterproof?**

No, **SKINERGY** is designed as a cosmetic covering. Liquids or dusts entering the prosthesis, either through a hole or tear in the cover or by penetration between the socket and the covert may lead to corrosion, bacterial or fungal growth and other unwanted effects. It is important that the user inspects for defects and entry points on a weekly basis.

When the prosthesis is returned for maintenance we recommend that the cover be removed to check for and remedy any damage. Time should be allowed so that the clinic can carry out this work.

### **Can I use a SKINERGY leg cover, I am an AK amputee**

**SKINERGY** is designed to cover to knee level. Although additional material is provided and can extend above the knee, it is not recommended because it may adversely affect the performance of the knee joint.

In the technical literature provided to the installer, techniques are described that allow a fabric cover or stocking to be used with the **SKINERGY** when fitted to above knee prostheses. If a good color match is chosen a pleasing effect can be achieved.

If the cover runs over the knee it will impede the action of the knee mechanism. It may also buckle providing an unacceptable appearance. The cover can be fitted initially without permanently attaching it to the stocking or foam cosmesis. Please discuss the options with your prosthetist so that you can determine what is acceptable.

### **How many SKINERGY colors are available?**

**SKINERGY** is made in two color ranges. The ranges use slightly different manufacturing techniques. We supply a standard range in 12 colors. The material has a uniform color although the cover has a variable texture. This range extends from the lightest, 00 often used for people of Celtic or Scandinavian origin to 19 which is a very dark color suitable for some people of African origin.

We have a second range in 9 colors that extends from 00 to 13. This range is called Truefinish™. The material used incorporates small colored elements that provide a variable appearance. We believe that this variation creates a more lifelike skin. Truefinish™ leg covers are not available in all countries.

We use a Photospectrometer to match batches of material during manufacture and compare the colors produced with electronically recorded master recipes. We compare cured samples of finished material under four different light sources. This process should ensure good batch to batch consistency within the limits of the process.

Color swatches can be viewed at the clinical centre or approximate colors are accessible on the [www.skinergy.info](http://www.skinergy.info) web site.

We cannot make special colors to order.

The colors available are based on many years of experience to provide a near match for most populations. It would help us to improve our product if the nearest match is not really close, you would discuss this with your prosthetist and make it known to us. We can then judge the market need to create a range to 'plug the holes' in the range.

### What feet are suitable?

We believe that most commercially available adult feet can be covered with *SKINERGY*. Two ranges are available, **Closed-Toe**, where all the toes are molded without spaces and **Split-Toe**, in which the big toe is separated from the other four. No child's sizes are available at the present time. The range covered includes feet measuring 220mm to 300mm, four sizes cover this range.

The cover will stretch to cover all widths of foot but the toe detail fits more closely on narrower foot shells.

### Will this work with Torque/Shock absorbers

Yes, there is no evidence to suggest that *SKINERGY* will be affected by the rotation caused by the action of a Torque or shock absorber. Clearly there may be some temporary wrinkling during the action mode of these components. It is unlikely that *SKINERGY* will impede the movement of these devices.

### Can the *SKINERGY* leg cover be repaired

We provide an adhesive and matching patches with each *SKINERGY* leg cover. These could be used to seal small holes although they are provided to reinforce access holes for adjustment tools.

We do not recommend that these materials are used for anything but temporary repairs.

### Are *SKINERGY* leg covers suitable for feet with Patient Adjustable Heels

Yes, The two most common PAH mechanisms are fitted to; the Total Concept™ (Elation™) foot. Adjustment of heel height is through the cover at the ankle. And the Blatchford (Endolite) Multiflet™ PAH foot. In this case access holes for the adjustment tool are punched in the appropriate locations at the heel. Reinforcement patches are adhered in place prior to forming the hole.

### Are *SKINERGY* leg covers suitable for Partial Feet

Yes, *SKINERGY* is recommended for partial feet. The sleeve can be rolled down for dressing and rolled back up the calf to provide suspension. Care must be taken, when *SKINERGY* is allowed to press against the skin, to ensure that it is not too tight, restricting circulation and causing excessive skin marking. Two sizes of calf are available.

During manufacture care must be taken to avoid sharp edges. Or hard surfaces that may damage the cover during use.

### How do you recommend finishing?

Full technical instructions are included with the packaging. Always use a sharp blade to cut *SKINERGY* and cut against a firm and stable surface. We recommend that the cover is trimmed just above the proximal socket edge.

### Can I paint the nails

*SKINERGY* can be painted but varnishes and paints peel off quickly. A better solution is described in the Technical information provided with the cover.

The technique described involves making linen or cotton 'nails' and using the adhesive supplied. The cotton nails can be painted and repainted. They can also be removed if necessary. Please follow the instructions provided.

### Can I use *SKINERGY* leg covers for suspension

We do not recommend that *SKINERGY* is used as a suspension. This is because the pressure on the skin may restrict flexion and circulation.

It may be trimmed so that it covers the edge of the prosthesis and just touches the skin to smooth the transition cosmetically.

### Can I use *SKINERGY* leg covers without shoes

We do not recommend that *SKINERGY* is used without shoes. Contact with harsh and abrasive surfaces or sharp stones will damage the cover and this damage is not covered by our warranty. At a minimum, light slippers or beach footwear (flip flops) should be worn.

#### Can I wear on the beach

So long as appropriate beach footwear is worn and water or sand do not penetrate the cosmesis *SKINERGY* can be worn on the beach.

If you intend to tan before or during your holiday and you anticipate wearing *SKINERGY*, discuss colors with your prosthetist in good time to arrange for a suitable replacement where this is possible.

#### How do I clean *SKINERGY* leg cover

We recommend a regular, daily cleaning with a damp cloth using regular soap and water. Dry thoroughly after cleaning.

We do not recommend using solvents to remove soiling on *SKINERGY*.

#### How do I stick it at the top?

Full technical instructions are provided in this document and in the pack. A suitable adhesive is supplied for this purpose

#### Can you leave it long?

We do not recommend leaving the cover long as this may cause constriction and skin marking, particularly behind the knee.

If it is necessary to do this, cut the edge of the *SKINERGY* with a scalloped edge to relieve pressure at the edge. Scissors that leave a scalloped edge are available from regular tool suppliers.

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## **LTI** Liberating Technologies, Inc.