

Quality In...Beauty Out!

Quality in GAR Labs

As a West Coast contract formulator, manufacturer and packager, GAR Labs has developed hundreds of proven hair, skin and face formulations over the years. Founded in 1982, GAR is focused on a consistent, quality product. GAR Labs is currently certified with many national marketers and retailers. The company has extensive experience developing hair, skin and sun lines for many popular brands currently sold nationwide.

When walking into GAR Labs there is a subdued feeling that hides the energy behind the reception area. Tom Raffy, President, comes out and the energy within immediately becomes evident. Raffy talks fast and moves fast – his enthusiasm for his employees and products is evident.

Taking a tour with Raffy becomes a whirlwind echoing the activity in the labs. Everything is orderly, clean, and moving smoothly. Our tour began in the quality lab.

Quality ingredients are key to the work at GAR Labs. Each chemical ingredient that comes into GAR Labs is tested from the source to ensure quality. That information is recorded and tracked along with each product formulated. "GAR Labs traces



the ingredients in each product it manufactures so that we can go back to the original ingredients of each production run we formulate," comments Raffy, "that is why we purchase only quality products."

"Does your product seem thinner than before? We can measure each formulation for thickness and compare it with our database on previous batches," he continues. "To ensure that the conditions are consistent, we measure everything at the same temperature." GAR Labs does the same kinds of testing and recording colour consistency, and many other characteristics. "We take a digital image of the new product next to the original formulation, plus a colour chart to ensure you are getting what you want."

Impressed? The tour is just starting. You may wonder about the quality of the product your customer will see. Once that product is handled by the final customer how will it maintain the integrity designed into it? GAR Labs checks for four areas of preservation, then incubates the product for 24 hours to make sure there is no bacterial growth. To ensure that there is no slow-growing bacteria, GAR checks microscopic conditions to make sure there is not even a start of bacteria. "This step is important because we can make corrections before we ship, but would have to recall the product if problems were found later," Raffy explains.

