# Characteristics

Neem oil is generally light to dark brown, bitter and has a rather strong odour that is said to combine the odours of peanut and garlic. It comprises mainly triglycerides and large amounts of triterpenoid compounds, which are responsible for the bitter taste. It is hydrophobic in nature and in order to emulsify it in water for application purposes, it must be formulated with appropriate surfactants.

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# Chemical characteristics of toilet soap prepared from neem (Azadirachta indica A. Juss) seed oil

Neem oil was obtained from the seeds of the neem tree, Azadirachta indica, exploiting a manually operating bridge press, and used to prepare toilet soap. The chemical properties of the soap were 63.75 %, 0.24 %, 0.06, 1.15 %, 12.6 % and 10.4 as its total fatty matter, total alkali, free caustic alkali, percentage chloride (% Cl-), % moisture and pH respectively. Due to the phytoconstituents in neem oil and the favourable chemical characteristics of the soap, it can be used as medical and cosmetics toilet soap. Such neem soap may act to protect the skin.