

**2. Is it safe and suitable for the intended purpose?**

This is an official preparation, therefore the formula is safe and suitable for purpose.

**3. Calculation of formula for preparation**

Prepare 20 g Compound Zinc Paste BP.

**Product formula**

(from the *British Pharmacopoeia* 2004, p 2809):

	Master	100 g	10 g	30 g
Zinc Oxide BP	250 g	25 g	2.5 g	7.5 g
Starch BP	250 g	25 g	2.5 g	7.5 g
White Soft Paraffin BP	500 g	50 g	5 g	15 g

**4. Method of preparation****a. Solubility** where applicable

Not applicable.

**b. Vehicle/diluent**

White Soft Paraffin BP is used as the diluent as per the product formula.

**c. Preservative**

There is no preservative included as per the product formula.

**d. Flavouring** when appropriate

Pastes are for external use and so no flavouring is required.

The following method would be used to prepare 30 g of Compound Zinc Paste BP from the formula above:

Noting the melting point of the base:

White/Yellow Soft Paraffin BP 38–56°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 416)

1. Weigh 7.5 g Zinc Oxide BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
2. Weigh 7.5 g Starch BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
3. Weigh 15 g White Soft Paraffin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
4. Transfer the Zinc Oxide BP to a porcelain mortar.
5. Add the Starch BP to the mortar and triturate with the pestle to form an evenly mixed powder.
6. Transfer the powder to a glass tile.
7. Transfer the White Soft Paraffin BP to the glass tile.
8. Mix the powders with the White Soft Paraffin BP using a metal spatula and remembering the principle of 'doubling-up' when mixing.

**Tips**

A porcelain mortar is used because of the volume of powder involved.