

b. Vehicle/diluent

As creams are susceptible to microbial contamination, freshly boiled and cooled purified water is used as the vehicle.

c. Preservative

No preservative is included in this product (as per the product formula) and so freshly boiled and cooled purified water is used as the vehicle.

d. Flavouring when appropriate

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

The following method would be used to prepare 30 g of Cetrimide Cream BP from the formula above:

Noting that the melting point of Cetostearyl Alcohol BP is 49–56°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 111):

1. Weigh 1.5 g Cetostearyl Alcohol BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
2. Weigh 15 g of Liquid Paraffin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
3. Weigh 13.35 g of freshly boiled and cooled purified water on a Class II or electronic balance.
4. Weigh 150 mg of Cetrimide BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
5. Melt the Cetostearyl Alcohol BP in an evaporating basin over a water bath to a temperature no higher than 60°C.
6. Add the Liquid Paraffin BP to the molten Cetostearyl Alcohol BP and remove from the heat.
7. Stir to form the *oily* phase.
8. Transfer the freshly boiled and cooled purified water to a beaker and heat to 60°C.
9. Add the Cetrimide BP to the freshly boiled and cooled purified water and remove from the heat.
10. Stir to form the *aqueous* phase.
11. When the oily phase and the aqueous phase are both at about 60°C, add the aqueous phase to the oily phase with constant, not too vigorous stirring.
12. Stir until cool enough to pack.
13. Weigh 20 g of the product and pack into a collapsible tube or amber glass jar. Label and dispense.

Tips

Stirring is constant and not too vigorous to ensure that there are no 'cold spots' within the cream as these would hasten cooling in discrete areas and result in a lumpy cream.

5. Choice of container

A collapsible tube or plain amber jar would be most suitable.

6. Labelling considerations**a. Title**

The product is official, therefore the following title would be suitable: 'Cetrimide Cream BP'.