

The following method would be used to prepare 30 g of Calamine and Coal Tar Ointment BP from the formula above: Noting that the melting points of the ingredients are as follows: Hydrous Wool Fat BP: 38–44°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 602).

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

1. Weigh 3.75 g Calamine BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
2. Weigh 3.75 g Zinc Oxide BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
3. Transfer the Calamine BP and the Zinc Oxide BP to a porcelain mortar and triturate together with a pestle.
4. Weigh 14.25 g White Soft Paraffin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
5. Weigh 7.5 g Hydrous Wool Fat BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
6. Place the White Soft Paraffin BP into an evaporating dish and melt over a water bath.
7. Remove from the heat and add the Hydrous Wool Fat BP. Stir until melted to ensure an even well-mixed base.

## Tips

The Strong Coal Tar Solution BP cannot be added until the bases are quite cool (less than 40°C) as it is a volatile preparation. This method would also avoid heating the Strong Coal Tar Solution BP and therefore reduce the volatilisation of some of the coal tar constituents and reduce the risk of sedimentation.

8. Transfer the powders to a glass tile and levigate with some of the molten base.
9. Transfer the powder/base mix to the rest of the molten base and stir until homogeneous.
10. Weigh 0.75 g Strong Coal Tar Solution BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
11. Allow the base/powder mixture to cool and add the Strong Coal Tar Solution BP and stir until homogeneous.
12. Weigh 20 g of the product and pack into a collapsible tube or amber glass jar. Label and dispense.

### 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: 'Calamine and Coal Tar Ointment BP'.

#### b. Quantitative particulars

Quantitative particulars are not required as the product is official.

#### c. Product-specific cautions (or additional labelling requirements)

'For external use only' will need to be added to the label as the product is an ointment for external use.