

Product formula**(from the *British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 713)**

	Master	100 g	10 g	40 g
Cetostearyl Alcohol BP	50 g	5 g	0.5 g	2 g
Hard Paraffin BP	50 g	5 g	0.5 g	2 g
Wool Fat BP	50 g	5 g	0.5 g	2 g
White/Yellow Soft Paraffin BP	850 g	85 g	8.5 g	34 g

4. Method of preparation

- a. Solubility where applicable
Not applicable.
- b. Vehicle/diluent
White/Yellow 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
Ointments are for external use and so no flavouring is required.

The following method would be used to prepare 40 g of Simple Ointment BP from the formula above:

Noting that the melting points of the ingredients are:

Cetostearyl Alcohol BP: 49–56°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 111)

Hard Paraffin BP: 50–61°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 415)

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

Wool Fat BP: 38–44°C (*British Pharmacopoeia* 1988, p 601)

1. Weigh 2 g Hard Paraffin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
2. Weigh 2 g Cetostearyl Alcohol BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
3. Weigh 2 g Wool Fat BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
4. Weigh 34 g Yellow/White Soft Paraffin BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
5. Place the Hard Paraffin BP into an evaporating dish and melt over a water bath.
6. Remove from the heat and add the other ingredients in descending order of melting point until all are melted in

Tips

The exact quantity cannot be prepared for an ointment: a suitable overage must be produced in order to dispense the required amount.

Yellow or White Soft Paraffin BP may be used when making this ointment, which is often used as a base for other ointments. As a general rule, if it is to be used as a base and the ingredients to be added are coloured (e.g. Coal Tar Solution BP), Yellow Soft Paraffin BP would be used. If the ingredients to be added are white or pale in colour (e.g. Zinc Oxide BP or Calamine BP), White Soft Paraffin BP would be used to produce a more pharmaceutically elegant product.