

**Product formula**(from the *British Pharmacopoeia* 2004, p 2372)

	Master	100 g	10 g	50 g
Dithranol BP	1 g	100 mg	10 mg	50 mg
Zinc and Salicylic Acid Paste BP	999 g	99.9 g	9.99 g	49.95 g

**4. Method of preparation**

- a. Solubility where applicable  
Not applicable.
- b. Vehicle/diluent  
Zinc and Salicylic Acid Paste 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 50 g of Dithranol paste BP 0.1% from the formula above:

1. Weigh 50 mg Dithranol BP on a Class I or sensitive electronic balance.
2. Transfer to a glass tile.
3. Weigh 49.95 g Zinc and Salicylic Acid Paste BP on a Class II or electronic balance.
4. Transfer the Zinc and Salicylic Acid Paste BP to the glass tile.
5. Triturate Dithranol BP with the Zinc and Salicylic Acid Paste BP, remembering the principle of 'doubling-up' until a smooth product is formed.
6. Weigh 40 g of the product and pack into a collapsible tube or amber glass jar. Label and dispense.

**Tips**

Dithranol BP is extremely irritant and care should be taken when handling. If large quantities are to be made, anecdotal evidence suggests that using Liquid Paraffin BP to dissolve the powder prior to addition to the paste reduces the likelihood of dispersal of the powder when admixing with the paste. If used, the formula would need to be slightly adjusted to allow for the weight of Liquid Paraffin BP used.

**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: 'Dithranol Paste BP 0.1%'.
- b. Quantitative particulars  
Quantitative particulars are not required as the product is official.