



Figure 7.1

A selection of suppository moulds.

Worked examples

Example 7.1

Calibrate a 1 g mould with a synthetic base

1. The synthetic base is melted in an evaporating basin over a water bath until around two-thirds of the base has melted.
2. The evaporating basin is then removed from the heat and stirred, using the residual heat to melt the remaining synthetic base.
3. When the base has cooled to close to its melting point, it is poured into the mould and allowed to overfill slightly.
4. After around 5 minutes, trim the tops and then leave the suppositories to set completely.
5. Weigh all the perfect suppositories (i.e. avoiding any chipped suppositories) and divide the total weight by the number of suppositories weighed. This will give the value that should be used for this particular mould with this base.

General method for suppository preparation (using fatty bases)

1. Most moulds prepare six suppositories, but it is necessary to calculate to include an excess (usually a multiple of 10).
2. Choose a suppository mould to provide the suppositories of the required size (usually a 1 g size). Check that the two halves of the mould are matched (numbers are etched on the sides).
3. Check that the mould is clean and assemble the mould but do not overtighten the screw.
4. For some suppository bases it is necessary to lubricate the mould (e.g. use Liquid Paraffin BP), but this is not required when using Hard Fat BP.