



Edition: BP 2025 (Ph. Eur. 11.6 update)

Zinc and Coal Tar Paste

[General Notices](#)

White's Tar Paste

DEFINITION

Zinc and Coal Tar Paste contains 6% w/w each of Zinc Oxide and Coal Tar with 38% w/w of Starch in a suitable hydrophobic basis.

Extemporaneous preparation

The following formula and directions apply.

Emulsifying Wax	50 g
Coal Tar	60 g
Zinc Oxide, finely sifted	60 g
Starch	380 g
Yellow Soft Paraffin	450 g

Melt the [Emulsifying Wax](#) at 70°, add the Coal Tar and 225 g of the Yellow Soft Paraffin, stir at 70° until completely melted, add the remainder of the Yellow Soft Paraffin, cool to 30°, add the Zinc Oxide and the Starch, stirring constantly, and stir until cold.

The paste complies with the requirements stated under Topical Semi-solid Preparations and with the following requirements.

Content of zinc oxide, ZnO

5.7 to 6.3% w/w.

IDENTIFICATION

The residue obtained in the Assay is yellow when hot and white when cool.

ASSAY

Heat 1.0 g of the paste gently in a porcelain dish over a small flame until the basis is completely volatilised or charred. Increase the heat until all the carbon is removed. Dissolve the residue in 10 mL of 2M [acetic acid](#) and add sufficient [water](#) to produce 50 mL. To the resulting solution add 50 mg of [xylenol orange triturate](#) and sufficient [hexamine](#) to produce a violet-pink colour. Add a further 2 g of [hexamine](#) and titrate with 0.05M [disodium edetate VS](#) until the solution becomes yellow. Each mL of 0.05M [disodium edetate VS](#) is equivalent to 4.069 mg of ZnO.

