
Updated: 10-Feb-2026

Glycolic Acid

Specification Sheet

Description: Glycolic acid is a naturally occurring alpha hydroxy acids (or AHAs). Synonym: hydroacetic acid.
Grade: CG

CAS: 79-14-1, 7732-18-5

INCI Name: Glycolic Acid (and) Water

Composition: Glycolic Acid, Water

Appearance: Clear, slightly yellowish liquid, characteristic odor

Benefits:

- Can reduce the appearance of fine lines, irregular pigmentation, age spots & decreases enlarged pores.
- Very useful in exfoliating products as alpha-hydroxy acid peel, or in creams & lotions at a lower concentration for a gentler acid-based peel.
- Widely used to rejuvenate the skin by encouraging the shedding of old surface skin cells.

Use: Typical use level is between 1-20% (final concentration of glycolic acid). For making a 10% AHA peel, use about 14.5% of glycolic acid 70, making a 5% AHA peel, use about 7.2%. For home use, it is not recommended to make AHA peels higher than 20% (equals about 28.5% of glycolic acid).

Applications: Peels, creams, lotions, masks, cleansers. Due to its acidity the final product needs to be tested for safe pH. Optimal pH range from 3.5-5.0. Some over the counter products, after adding glycolic acid, will separate as a result of the low pH, and need to be stabilized.

Solubility: Water-soluble

Preservation: Preservative-free

Storage: Store light-protected at a cool and dry place.

Country of Origin: USA

Raw material source: Monochloroacetic acid

MakingCosmetics Inc.

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Manufacture: Glycolic acid is produced by hydrolysis of molten monochloroacetic acid with 50% aqueous sodium hydroxide at 90-130°C. The resulting glycolic acid solution is about 70% concentrated.

Animal Testing: Not animal tested.

GMO: GMO-free (does not contain plant-derived components)

Vegan: Does not contain animal-derived components.

HS Code: 1518004000

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