
Updated: 26-Jan-2026

Salicylic Acid, USP

Specification Sheet

Description: Organic beta hydroxy acid (chemical name: 2-hydroxybenzoic acid), occurs naturally in various plants. Melting Point: 159 °C (318 °F).

CAS: 69-72-7

INCI Name: Salicylic acid

Composition: Salicylic acid

Purity Grade: USP grade

Appearance: Fine, white powder, odorless

Benefits:

- Can be used for skin peels, anti-dandruff products, and in products for oily, acneic and/or blemished skin
- Ideal for making products that need higher concentrations of salicylic acid

Use: Typical use level 0.5-3%. Typically, it is added to the water phase of formulas but it is only slightly soluble in water. If used at concentrations higher than 2%, octyldodecanol or propylene glycol should be used as solvent. Salicylic acid can be added also in powder form to a finished cream or lotion without dissolving it first in water or another solvent.

Applications: Peels and exfoliant products. Anti-acne products (max. 2%). Anti-dandruff products (max 3%). Wart-removing products (max. concentration depends on type of plaster vehicle used).

Solubility: Oil soluble. About 15-20% in Octyldodecanol. Has limited solubility in other liquids: About 0.2% at 20°C, about 1.7% at 75 °C (by adding about 5% of sodium phosphate or another neutral salt, solubility of salicylic acid in water is then increased to about 1.8%). Alcohol (ethanol): about 14% in pure ethanol, about 0.5% in 20% ethanol. Propylene glycol: about 3-6%. Glycerin: about 1.6%.

Preservation: Preservative-free

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

Country of Origin: France

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Raw material source: Sodium phenoxide and carbon dioxide.

Manufacture: Salicylic acid is prepared from dry sodium phenoxide in a stream of carbon dioxide. It is further purified by crystallizing the sodium salicylate from water at a temperature not exceeding 20 deg C.

Animal Testing: Not animal tested

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

Vegan: Does not contain animal-derived components

HS Code: 2101110000

Regulatory Information: Salicylic acid is registered as OTC-drug with the FDA. This means that, if you want to sell products containing salicylic acid, your facility must be registered with the FDA and operate under cGMP guidelines.

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