



Lactic Acid

Lactic acid is a versatile agent best known for its pH adjusting, exfoliating and moisturising properties. Being one of the most gentle alpha-hydroxy acids (AHA), it is commonly used in skin and hair care products. As a component of the skin's natural moisturising factor (NMF), lactic acid is suitable for most skin types promoting cell turnover, removal of dead skin cells and moisture retaining.

Presentation

Lactic acid is an organic acid naturally occurring in the human body. In cosmetics, lactic acid proves to be a true all-rounder: beside its use as a pH adjuster, its excellent exfoliation and moisturising qualities promote radiant looking skin and improve signs of skin aging. Because of its antibacterial properties, lactic acid also serves as a natural preservative ensuring product safety. As a slightly viscous liquid, it is easy to use and dose in personal care formulations.

Production

L(+)-lactic acid is produced by fermentation of glucose syrup which is derived from maize. After a pH adjustment step followed by a purification by adsorption, the product is decolourised with activated carbon and finally distilled, leading to a high purity concentrated lactic acid.

Characteristics

Lactic acid is a colourless to yellowish, nearly odourless, syrupy liquid. It is miscible with water and with alcohol.

INCI name

Lactic Acid

INCI functions

Buffering, humectant, skin conditioning

Applications

Colour cosmetics, deodorants, fragrances, hair care, oral care, skin care, soap and bath products

Functions and typical dosage

	Minimum recommended amount	Maximum recommended amount
■ Buffering	0.1%	1.0%
■ Exfoliating	1.0%	10.0%
■ Preservation	0.9%	2.9%



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