



Shea Butter Unrefined Technical Data Sheet

Product Description

Unrefined Shea butter is a grey, tallow-like substance, which is extracted from the kernels of the fruit of the tree *Butyrospermum parkii* by hydraulic pressing or by using specially adjusted screw expellers. The greenish crude fat is usually more or less contaminated with the latex from the fruits, rendering the shea butter rather difficult to refine. Most qualities offered are rather grey in colour, but if proper care is taken in the selection of the nuts, and if adequately refined an attractive white fat can be obtained which is very suitable for cosmetic applications. Our unrefined shea butter is filtered.

INCI Name:	Butyrospermum parkii nut extract
CAS No.:	91080-23-8
EINECS No.:	293-515-7

Specifications

Appearance:	Greyish to slightly pale yellow solid
Odour:	Neutral to faint characteristic odour.

% Free Fatty Acid (as oleic acid):	Max. 10.0
Iodine Value:	55 - 72
Peroxide Value (meq/kg):	Max. 10.0
Unsaponifiable Matter:	Min. 4.0%
Saponification Value:	165 - 185
Melting range °C:	28 - 38

Fatty Acid Composition % :

Palmitic	C16:0	3 - 7
Stearic	C18:0	39 - 47
Oleic	C18:1	42 - 47
Linoleic	C18:2	4 - 7
Total Saturated		39 - 60
Total Monounsaturated		40 - 48
Total Polyunsaturated		4 - 10

The variations in fatty acid composition are due to climatic and variety influences.

Use in Cosmetics

Unrefined Shea butter is a non-toxic and non-irritating material derived from totally renewable natural resources. It is easy to use within cosmetic formulations. Because of its unique fatty acid composition shea butter is a soft fat, which readily melts at body temperature, making it a very attractive emollient for many skin care applications, such as baby care products, skin care products, massage creams, make-up. Shea butter is an excellent ointment base that releases medicaments faster than other well-known bases.

Unrefined Shea butter is absorbed quickly by the skin, acts as a refatting agent and has good water-binding properties.

The particular strength of shea butter applies to the content of unsaponifiables which provide good soothing properties and extended sun protection.

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