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Total Fatty Matter in Soap and Creams

Practical 21 - Practical study

Aim

To determine method-defined total fatty matter in soap or cream.

Principle

A suitable method separates and measures the prescribed fatty fraction. Soap and cream matrices can require different preparation and correction steps; unsaponifiable or other extractable matter must be addressed by the adopted method.

Materials and Requirements

- Representative soap or cream and matrix-specific method
- Approved separation and extraction equipment
- Tared receiving vessel, balance and blanks
- Approved method or teaching-data pack and a dated record sheet

Procedure

1. Define the preparation or dataset, study question and method version. Record identities, units and the criteria to be used before examining the outcome.
2. Weigh a representative test portion and document water or dry-basis requirements.
3. Liberate and separate the defined fatty fraction by the approved chemical and extraction procedure.
4. Wash and recover the fraction, remove solvent through the authorised procedure and reach the specified weighing endpoint.
5. Apply blank and method-defined corrections and calculate on the original or dry basis as prescribed.
6. Retain the original observations and calculations. State deviations, missing information and the limits of the conclusion; do not replace measured values with expected results.

Observations and Record

Enter actual measurements or the supplied teaching data. Record the method, material identity, conditions and units.

Test portion	Recovered fraction	Blank / correction	Fatty matter / %
Replicate 1	Weigh	Record	Calculate
Replicate 2	Weigh	Record	Calculate
Method blank	Weigh	Apply	Evaluate

Calculations

- Method-defined fatty matter (%) = corrected recovered fatty mass / stated test-portion mass x 100

Worked Example

Illustrative corrected recovered fraction 1.20 g from a 2.00 g portion gives 60.0% on the stated basis.

Confirm that the measured fraction matches the method definition before naming it total fatty matter.

Result and Interpretation

• Report matrix, recovery definition, basis and repeatability.

Precautions

• Use solvent and reactive-reagent controls.
• Avoid incomplete separation and retained solvent.
• Do not apply one matrix method without suitability evidence.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why define the fatty fraction?

Different extraction methods may recover different components.

Why reach the weighing endpoint?

Residual solvent or moisture biases mass.

Why state dry or original basis?

Water content changes the reported percentage.

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