

Herbal Soaps: Formulation Techniques, Evaluation Parameters, Benefits, and Market Overview in India

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Abstract: Soap is a cleansing product formed by the saponification of triglycerides with alkali (NaOH or KOH), yielding glycerol and fatty acid salts. While conventional soaps are effective, many contain synthetic additives that can irritate skin, prompting interest in herbal-based alternatives. Herbal soaps incorporate natural herbs, essential oils, and plant-derived oils (e.g., coconut, neem, aloe vera, turmeric) that provide antiseptic, antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-aging actions without sulfates, parabens, artificial colours or animal testing. Common formulation techniques include melt-and-pour, cold-process, hot-process, re-batching and liquid-soap methods, each influencing the soap's hardness, lather, and curing time. Evaluation of herbal soaps typically assesses organoleptic properties, pH, moisture content, total fatty matter, foam height, foam retention, alcohol-insoluble matter and microbial safety, ensuring compliance with dermatological standards.

Keywords: Herbal soaps, Conventional soaps, Additives, Organoleptic properties

