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## Millon's Reagent

—To 2 mL of mercury in a conical flask add 20 mL of nitric acid. Shake the flask under a hood to break up the mercury into small globules. After about 10 minutes, add 35 mL of water, and, if a precipitate or crystals appear, add sufficient dilute nitric acid (1 in 5, prepared from nitric acid from which the oxides have been removed by blowing air through it until it is colorless) to dissolve the separated solid. Add sodium hydroxide solution (1 in 10) dropwise, with thorough mixing, until the curdy precipitate that forms after the addition of each drop no longer redissolves but is dispersed to form a suspension. Add 5 mL more of the dilute nitric acid, and mix. Prepare this solution fresh.

**Auxiliary Information** - Please [check for your question in the FAQs](#) before contacting USP.

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
MILLON'S REAGENT	<a href="#">Margareth R.C. Marques</a> Principal Scientific Liaison	HDQ Headquarters

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