

Status: Currently Official on 16-Feb-2025  
Official Date: Official Prior to 2013  
Document Type: USP Monographs  
DocId: GUID-702133A1-F72C-4E00-996C-199B6DC26DE9\_1\_en-US  
DOI: [https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF\\_M71790\\_01\\_01](https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M71790_01_01)  
DOI Ref: 1n21l

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# Pumice

## DEFINITION

Pumice is a substance of volcanic origin, consisting chiefly of complex silicates of aluminum, potassium, and sodium.

## IMPURITIES

### • IRON

**Sample solution:** The remaining one-half of the filtrate from the test for *Water-Soluble Substances*

**Analysis:** Acidify the *Sample solution* with hydrochloric acid, and add a few drops of potassium ferrocyanide TS.

**Acceptance criteria:** No blue color is produced.

## SPECIFIC TESTS

### • WATER-SOLUBLE SUBSTANCES

**Sample:** 10 g

**Analysis:** Boil the *Sample* with 50 mL of water for 30 min, adding water from time to time to maintain approximately the original volume, and then filter. The filtrate is neutral to litmus. Evaporate one-half of this filtrate, dry at 105° for 1 h, and weigh the residue.

**Acceptance criteria:** NMT 10 mg (NMT 0.20%)

### • ACID-SOLUBLE SUBSTANCES

**Sample:** 1 g

**Analysis:** Boil the *Sample* with 25 mL of 3 N hydrochloric acid for 30 min, adding water from time to time to maintain approximately the original volume, then filter. Add five drops of sulfuric acid to the filtrate, evaporate to dryness, ignite, and weigh the residue.

**Acceptance criteria:** NMT 60 mg (NMT 6.0%)

### • POWDERED PUMICE

**Pumice flour** or **superfine pumice:** NLT 97.0% of pumice flour or superfine pumice passes through a No. 200 standard mesh sieve.

**Fine pumice:** NLT 95.0% of fine pumice passes through a No. 150 standard mesh sieve, and NMT 75.0% passes through a No. 200 standard mesh sieve.

**Coarse pumice:** NLT 95.0% of coarse pumice passes through a No. 60 standard mesh sieve, and NMT 5.0% passes through a No. 200 standard mesh sieve.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

• **PACKAGING AND STORAGE:** Preserve in well-closed containers.

• **LABELING:** Label powdered Pumice to indicate, in descriptive terms, the fineness of the powder.

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

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
PUMICE	<a href="#">Documentary Standards Support</a>	SM32020 Small Molecules 3
REFERENCE STANDARD SUPPORT	RS Technical Services <a href="mailto:RSTECH@usp.org">RSTECH@usp.org</a>	SM32020 Small Molecules 3

**Chromatographic Database Information:** [Chromatographic Database](#)

## Most Recently Appeared In:

Pharmacopeial Forum: Volume No. Information currently unavailable

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