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Sawdust, Purified

—It may be prepared as follows. Extract sawdust in a percolator, first with sodium hydroxide solution (1 in 100), and then with dilute hydrochloric acid (1 in 100) until the acid percolate gives no test for alkaloid with mercuric-potassium iodide TS or with iodine TS. Then wash with water until free from acid and soluble salts, and dry. Purified sawdust meets the following test.

Alkaloids: To 5 g of purified sawdust contained in a flask add 50 mL of a mixture of 2 volumes of ether and 1 volume of chloroform and 10 mL of ammonia TS, and shake frequently for 2 hours. Decant 20 mL of the clear, ether-chloroform liquid, and evaporate to dryness. Dissolve the residue in 2 mL of dilute hydrochloric acid (1 in 12), and divide into two portions. To 1 portion add mercuric-potassium iodide TS, and to the other add iodine TS: no turbidity is produced in either portion.

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

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
SAWDUST, PURIFIED	Margareth R.C. Marques Principal Scientific Liaison	HDQ Headquarters

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