

Status: Currently Official on 17-Feb-2025
Official Date: Official as of 01-May-2019
Document Type: USP Monographs
DocId: GUID-BBECB3D1-081C-4BAC-9100-AF594B44D49D_2_en-US
DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M89070_02_01
DOI Ref: kc4cs

© 2025 USPC
Do not distribute

Witch Hazel

DEFINITION

Witch Hazel is a clear, colorless distillate prepared from recently cut and partially dried dormant twigs of *Hamamelis virginiana* L.
Prepare Witch Hazel as follows. Macerate a weighed amount of the twigs for about 24 h in about twice their weight of water, and then distill until NLT 800 mL and NMT 850 mL of clear, colorless distillate is obtained from each 1000 g of the twigs taken. Add 150 mL of alcohol to each 850 mL of distillate, and mix thoroughly.

OTHER COMPONENTS

- [ALCOHOL DETERMINATION \(611\)](#), [Procedures, Method I—Distillation Method](#): 14.0%–15.0% of ethanol

CONTAMINANTS

- **NONVOLATILE RESIDUE:** Evaporate 100 mL to dryness in a tared dish on a hot plate at 60°. The weight of the residue does not exceed 25 mg (0.025%).
- **LIMIT OF TANNINS**
Solution A: 1000 mL of water adjusted with phosphoric acid to a pH of 2.5 ± 0.1
Solution B: Acetonitrile
Mobile phase: See [Table 1](#).

Table 1

Time (min)	Solution A (%)	Solution B (%)
0	90	10
5	90	10
20	0	100

Standard solution: 0.03 mg/mL of tannic acid

Sample solution: Witch Hazel

Chromatographic system

(See [Chromatography \(621\)](#), [System Suitability](#).)

- Mode:** LC
Detector: UV 280 nm
Column: 4.6-mm × 15-cm; packing L1
Flow rate: 1 mL/min
Injection volume: 25 µL

Analysis

- Samples:** *Standard solution* and *Sample solution*
Acceptance criteria: If any peak corresponding to the retention time of tannic acid in the *Standard solution* is present for the *Sample solution*, its peak area is NMT that of the tannic acid in the *Standard solution*.

Delete the following:

- ▲ [ARTICLES OF BOTANICAL ORIGIN \(561\)](#), [Pesticide Residue Analysis](#): Meets the requirements▲ (USP 1-May-2019)

SPECIFIC TESTS

- [SPECIFIC GRAVITY \(841\)](#): 0.979–0.983

- **pH** (791): 3.0–5.0

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **PACKAGING AND STORAGE:** Preserve in tight containers, and avoid exposure to excessive heat.

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

Topic/Question	Contact	Expert Committee
WITCH HAZEL	Nam-Cheol Kim Scientific Liaison	BDSHM2020 Botanical Dietary Supplements and Herbal Medicines
REFERENCE STANDARD SUPPORT	RS Technical Services RSTECH@usp.org	BDSHM2020 Botanical Dietary Supplements and Herbal Medicines

Chromatographic Database Information: [Chromatographic Database](#)

Most Recently Appeared In:
Pharmacopeial Forum: Volume No. PF 43(6)

Current DocID: GUID-BBECB3D1-081C-4BAC-9100-AF594B44D49D_2_en-US

DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M89070_02_01

DOI ref: [kc4cs](#)

OFFICIAL