

Organic Castor Oil

Latin Name:	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
Source:	Organic castor seeds
Origin:	India
Production Location:	India
Extraction:	Mechanically cold-pressed



Background

Castor oil is cold pressed from the seed of the castor plant. While it was Cayce who brought castor oil packs to fame in the 20th century, the oil has a long and varied history of use as a healing agent in folk medicine around the world. Castor bean seeds, believed to be 4,000 years old, have been found in Egyptian tombs where historical records reveal the use of the oil for various applications including protection from sunburn during the building of the pyramids.

Oil Composition

Colour:	Colourless – Pale yellow/pink
Odour:	Typical
Viscosity:	Clear mobile liquid
Principal Composition:	Ricinoleic, oleic, linoleic

Technical Data

CAS Number EU:	8001-79-4
CAS Number US:	8001-79-4
FEMA:	2263
EINECS Number:	232-293-8



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Fatty Acid Profile – Typical

Fatty Acid	Common Name	Composition%
C16:0 Hexadecanoic	Palmitic acid	1.0
C18:0 Octadecnoic	Stearic acid	1.0
	Ricinoleic Acid	80.0
C18:1 Octadecenoic	Oleic acid	2.0
C18:2 Octadecadienoic	Linoleic acid	3.0
C18:3 Octadecatrienoic	Linolenic acid	1.0

Potential Use

Castor oil is a highly emollient, thick and sticky oil that has a tendency to stay on the skin. For this reason it is often used in lipsticks and lip glosses to give shine and texture but can also be used in products looking to give the skin a sheen. This oily surface can also help protect the skin from adverse climatic conditions such as the wind. Its neutral odour makes it a good formulating tool for oil-based perfumes. It is naturally rich in antioxidants and works as a deep conditioner to heal both skin and hair.

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