

The Importance of Slip and Spread



A successful finished product offers the consumer a pleasant texture both during and after product application. Emollients' physical characteristics are critical to ensuring the desired texture. These characteristics include viscosity, color, pour point, refractive index, **slip and spread**.

An **emollient's slip (lubricity)** modulates the texture of finished products by reducing friction during application. Slip influences skin-feel primarily during product application and is important to achieve the proper skin-feel of many product categories such as lip care, face serums, and skin care products.

An **emollient's spread** helps disperse the product over the skin's surface. Ingredients such as pigments and sunscreen actives must be well dispersed over the skin's surface to ensure even coverage. This allows the product to function properly without sacrificing product texture. For example, an emollient with high spread contributes to more even coverage in makeup and sun care products. Conversely, lower spread is better suited for eye-area applications.

The slip and spread of 25 emollients were measured using *in vitro* test methods developed by Floratech. The physical behaviors of each emollient were evaluated in comparison to one another and are presented in the chart on the reverse side.

Definitions

Slip = The angle in degrees from vertical at which a standard weight, lubricated by the test emollient, will begin to slide on an inclined plane. Higher values represent higher slip.

Spread = The portion, as a percentage of standard P5 filter paper, over which 20 drops of the test emollient will spread in 10 minutes. Larger values represent higher spread.



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Relative Slip and Spread of Selected Emollients

