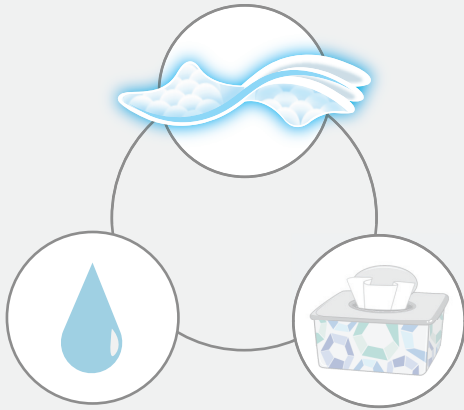


Basesheet



Formulation

Packaging

What are most baby wipes made out of?

Basesheet

The wipe cloth material, made out of either wood pulp, polypropylene, polyester, or combinations thereof

Formulation

The ingredients added to the basesheet that keep the wipe wet and help with cleaning

Packaging

The container or material that holds and dispenses wipes

What are the main ingredients in a properly formulated wipe that help support baby skin health?

Water



Baby wipes are primarily made of water.

- The water used in baby wipes formulation should range from highly purified to reverse osmosis quality. Water purification ensures minerals, dissolved solids, and microbial contaminants are removed.

Surfactants provide cleaning action.

- Mild surfactants are added to help remove oily soils from the skin, such as components in feces that are not effectively removed by water alone.

Surfactants



pH adjusters

The pH of baby wipes should be adjusted (or pH balanced) to complement the pH of healthy infant skin which is slightly acidic (around 5 – 5.5).

- Keeping the skin surface pH slightly acidic helps prevent the growth of pathogenic bacteria and also helps form a healthy skin barrier.

Gentle ingredients such as emollients, botanicals, and vitamins can be added to provide additional skin health benefits.

Skin benefiting agents

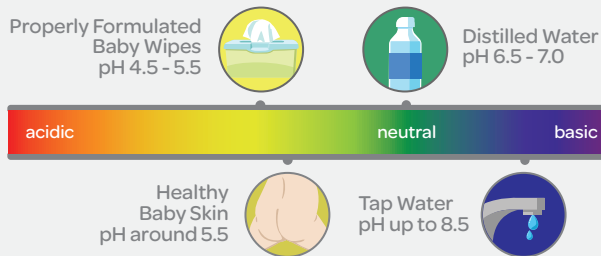


Preservative



Gentle, mild preservatives should be selected to reduce potential sensitivity on infant skin while preventing product contamination.

Benefits of using properly formulated wipes versus cloth and water:



Properly formulated wipes complement infant skin pH, unlike water alone, which can vary in pH depending on the source. Continuous exposure to water that is too alkaline can impair skin barrier function.

Several clinical studies have shown that baby wipes are safe and gentle to use on healthy infants and infants in the NICU, and can be superior to using water and cloth to clean diapered skin²⁻⁶.

Role of the manufacturer in ensuring the safety and efficacy of baby wipes:

By taking into consideration the unique features of infant skin at all stages, product safety testing should be performed to ensure tolerability, low irritation and overall skin sensitivity to the product as a whole and its individual ingredients.



Before product distribution, specific microbiological testing must be carried out to ensure baby wipes are safe to clean infant skin. Like other non-sterile formulated skin care products, baby wipes need to be analyzed to ensure they do not contain harmful or high levels of microbes post-manufacturing and can control the growth of microbes introduced during product use.

Considerations for choosing a baby wipe:

- When caring for the diapered skin of the newborn, it is important to understand all the factors that can contribute to skin irritation and potentially result in dermatitis, including being selective about the diapering products used on infant skin. Refer to AWHONN skin care guidelines for best practices on treatment and prevention of diaper dermatitis⁷.
- For extremely premature infants or infants with an underlying skin condition, consideration should be given to developing a documented protocol for managing and maintaining healthy diapered skin.
- Baby wipes are not developed and formulated identically. Ingredients should be carefully selected for use on diapered skin based on safety profile, allergenicity, and tolerability.

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