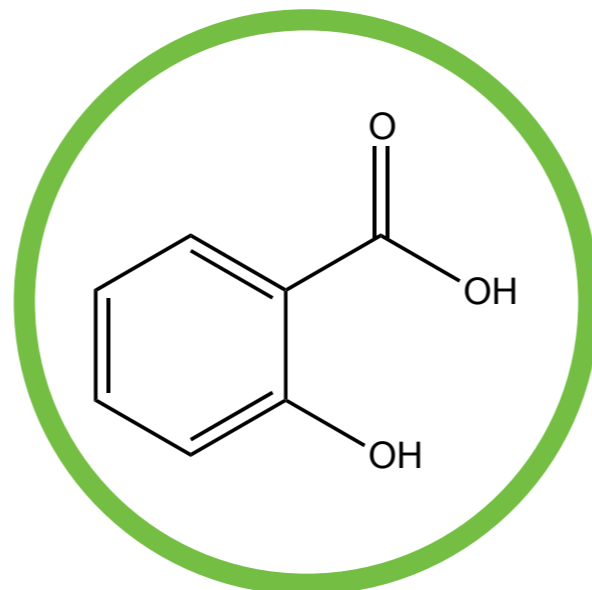


EVERYDAY COMPOUNDS: SALICYLIC ACID

SALICYLIC ACID IS FOUND NATURALLY IN MANY PLANTS, & CAN BE ISOLATED FROM WILLOW TREE BARK. UNRIPE FRUITS & VEGETABLES ARE NATURAL SOURCES OF SALICYLIC ACID.

AS A KERATOLYTIC AGENT

Salicylic acid is present in acne creams & wart treatment as a keratolytic agent; it softens keratin, the proteins that make up the outer layer of skin, by increasing the amount of moisture in the skin, and assists the exfoliation of skin cells.



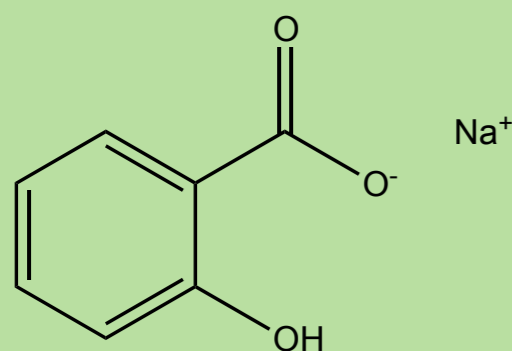
SALICYLIC ACID

2-Hydroxybenzoic acid

White, crystalline solid



AS AN ANTIBACTERIAL AGENT



SODIUM SALICYLATE

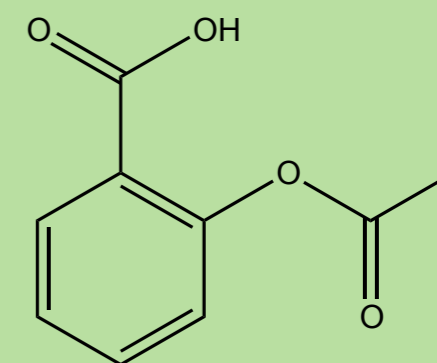
Sodium salicylate is the sodium salt of salicylic acid, and has antibacterial properties. It is for this reason that it can be found in some toothpastes & mouthwashes. Sodium salicylate is also used, along with salicylic acid, as a food preservative due to its antiseptic properties.

AS AN ANTI-DANDRUFF AGENT

As a keratolytic agent, salicylic acid is also found in anti-dandruff shampoos. It helps loosen dry skin on the scalp and remove dry skin flakes.

Most of the anti-dandruff shampoos that use it will contain around 2-3% salicylic acid.

AS A PRECURSOR MOLECULE



ASPIRIN (ACETYL SALICYLIC ACID)

Salicylic acid is reacted with acetic anhydride, using sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid as a catalyst, to produce aspirin. Aspirin has analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties. It is one of the most widely used medications in the world, with around 40,000 tonnes of it being consumed each year.

