

FIX-IT GUIDE FOR COMMON FORMULATION ISSUES

Troubleshoot Texture, Stability
& Ingredient Problems Like a Pro



- ABI FANIRAN -

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– DISCLAIMER –

The information provided in this guide, including ingredient suggestions, formulation techniques, and troubleshooting tips, is for personal use and informational purposes only. It does not replace professional skincare, dermatological, or cosmetic chemistry advice.

Allergy & Patch Testing

Always conduct a patch test before applying any new product to a larger skin area. If irritation occurs, discontinue use immediately.

Safe Handling & Preservation

Users are responsible for ensuring their formulations are made in a clean, sanitized environment and properly preserved when necessary.

Failure to use appropriate preservation methods in formulations may result in bacterial or fungal contamination, which could harm the skin.

Personal Use vs. Commercial Sale

If you plan to sell skincare products, ensure compliance with local cosmetic laws, including safety assessments, labeling, and testing.

Many regions require cosmetic safety assessments, proper labeling, and product testing before selling to the public. By using this tracker, you acknowledge that the author and publisher are not responsible for any outcomes resulting from using DIY skin

care formulations. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Skin reactions or sensitivities.
- Improper preservation leading to contamination.
- Misuse of essential oils or active ingredients.
- Failure to comply with local cosmetic regulations.

Using DIY skincare formulations is a personal choice, and users assume full responsibility for their creations.

Always research, test your formulations properly, and prioritize skin safety.

Happy formulating!

– INTRODUCTION –

Having trouble with your DIY skincare formulations? You're not alone!

Running into formulation challenges is part of the process, even for experienced formulators.

Even the best formulators encounter challenges, and that's because skincare formulation is both a science and an art.

Various factors can impact the final product, including ingredient compatibility, incorrect ratios, pH imbalance, improper mixing, and preservation issues.

From emulsions that separate to creams that feel too greasy or serums that turn sticky, minor missteps can lead to big frustrations. But do not worry; every problem has a solution!

This troubleshooting guide will help you quickly identify and fix common skincare formulation issues so you can confidently create stable, effective, and high-quality products.

Formulation mistakes are just part of the learning process, but with the proper knowledge, you can avoid common pitfalls and master the art of skincare creation.

Let's dive in and start fixing those formulation issues so you can craft products that perform beautifully!

A background image featuring laboratory glassware and wooden blocks. In the upper left, a graduated cylinder with markings at 100, 200, and 300 is partially visible. To its right are two light-colored wooden blocks. In the lower left, a beaker contains a yellow liquid. In the lower right, a large, shallow glass dish is visible. The entire scene is set against a light, neutral background with soft shadows.

SEPARATION IN EMULSIONS



ISSUE

Your lotion, cream, or emulsion is separating into oil and water phases, leaving a runny or curdled texture.



REASON

Separation occurs when the oil and water phases fail to bind properly, often due to inadequate emulsification, incorrect ingredient ratios, or temperature imbalances during formulation.

SOLUTIONS

- 1 Increase the emulsifier or use a more effective emulsifying system.
- 2 Blend longer at the correct temperature to ensure proper emulsification.
- 3 Ensure your formulation includes a stabilizer or thickener (e.g., xanthan gum, cetyl alcohol).
- 4 Check temperature differences between your oil and water phases before combining.



GRAINY BODY BUTTERS



ISSUE

Your whipped body butter has a gritty, grainy texture instead of a smooth, creamy consistency.



REASON

Preservative failure is typically caused by incorrect pH levels, an inadequate preservative system, poor formulation hygiene, or insufficient mixing.

SOLUTIONS

1

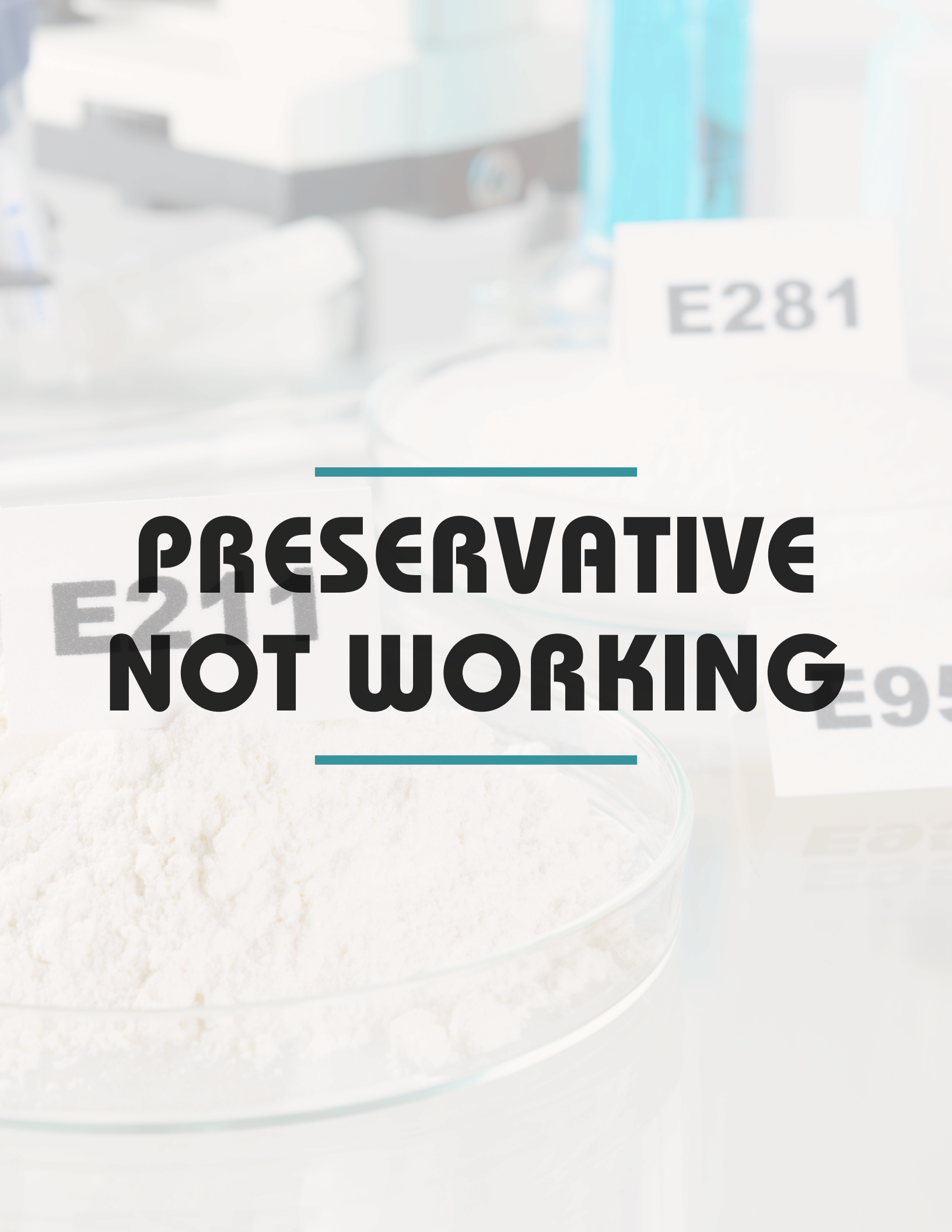
Slow down the cooling process to prevent crystallization of the butter (especially with shea butter).

2

Melt butters completely and allow them to cool at room temperature before whipping.

3

Try a double-melting method by reheating and cooling again to break up grainy particles.

A petri dish containing a white, powdery substance with visible brown and green mold growth. The dish is labeled 'E211'. In the background, other petri dishes are visible, labeled 'E281', 'E95', 'E81', and 'E31'.

**PRESERVATIVE
NOT WORKING**



ISSUE

Your formulation spoils quickly, develops an odor, or shows visible microbial growth.



REASON

Preservative failure is typically caused by incorrect pH levels, an inadequate preservative system, poor formulation hygiene, or insufficient mixing.

SOLUTIONS

1

Check the pH range of your formulation; some preservatives only work within specific pH ranges.

2

Use a broad-spectrum preservative at the correct usage rate for your product type.

3

Ensure proper mixing temperatures. Some preservatives need to be added at cool-down phase to remain effective.

4

Avoid contaminating your formulation by using sanitized tools and packaging.



--- **LOTION FEELS GREASY** ---



ISSUE

Your lotion or moisturizer feels heavy, greasy, or overly oily when applied to the skin.



REASON

A greasy feel usually results from excessive oil content, the use of heavy oils and butters, or a lack of lightweight absorbing agents.

SOLUTIONS

- 1 Use lighter carrier oils (e.g., grapeseed oil, squalane, or jojoba oil) instead of heavier butters.
- 2 Adjust the water-to-oil ratio. Increase the water phase for a lighter, more fluid texture.
- 3 Add mattifying ingredients like silica, tapioca starch, or arrowroot powder to reduce greasiness

The background of the image features several large, irregular splashes of a white, viscous liquid, possibly paint or cream, against a light beige, textured surface. The splashes are positioned around the central text, with one large splash at the top and two others at the bottom left and right.

MOLD GROWTH IN WATER-BASED FORMULATIONS



ISSUE

Your formulation develops mold, bacteria, or yeast over time.



REASON

Any product containing water is highly susceptible to microbial contamination, especially if not properly preserved or stored.

SOLUTIONS

1

Use a proper preservative. Water-based formulations always need a broad-spectrum preservative.

2

Store products in sanitized, air-tight containers and avoid dipping fingers directly into jars.

3

Keep water-based products in cool, dry conditions to slow microbial growth.

4

Test preservative effectiveness by monitoring product stability over time.

– EXTRA FORMULATION TIPS –

-  Always measure accurately. Incorrect ingredient percentages can lead to instability.
-  Use a digital pH meter. Certain ingredients (like preservatives) only work within specific pH ranges.
-  Keep detailed formulation notes. Tracking your adjustments helps troubleshoot future batches.
-  Test your formulations over time. Observe how your products hold up under different conditions.

Skin care formulation is a process of trial and error, and encountering issues is a natural part of learning.

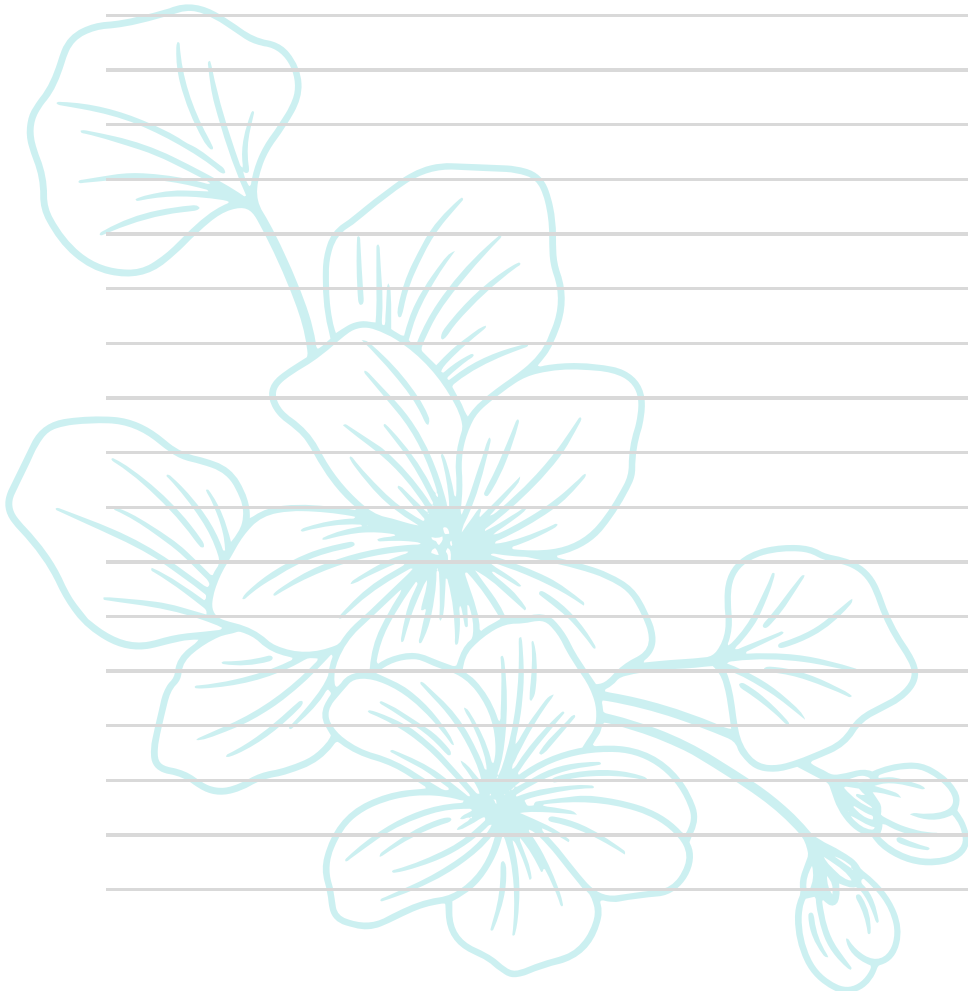
You can refine your skills and create high-quality, effective products by understanding the science behind emulsions, texture, preservation, and stability.

Keep experimenting, take detailed notes, and don't be afraid to tweak your formulations until you achieve the perfect result!

– QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE –

ISSUE	REASON	SOLUTIONS
Separation in Emulsions	Insufficient emulsifier, incorrect temperature, phase imbalance	Increase emulsifier or use a more effective system, blend longer, ensure correct phase temperatures
Grainy Body Butters	Crystallization due to rapid cooling	Slow down cooling, reheat and cool again, whip at room temperature
Preservative Not Working	Incorrect pH, insufficient preservative, contamination	Check pH range, use correct preservative dosage, ensure sanitation
Lotion Feels Greasy	Too much oil, heavy oils or butters	Use lighter oils, adjust water to oil ratio, add mattifying ingredients
Mold Growth in Water-Based Formulations	Lack of preservative, poor storage conditions	Use a broad spectrum preservative, store properly, keep tools sanitized

- NOTES -





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