Product Information

For years, glycolic acid has been among the most popular actives in anti-aging formulations and has gained strong consumer recognition as an ingredient in many skin care products. Now, research has shown that glycolic acid also offers many benefits for hair care products.

Glycolic acid delivers positive effects by penetrating the skin effectively and stimulating cellular activity. As the simplest alpha hydroxy acid (AHA) and smallest of the fruit acids, glycolic acid also has an excellent profile for penetrating the cuticle layer of the hair shaft. This enables the glycolic acid to attach itself to the keratin, which can help make hair more manageable and give a healthy appearance.

A series of experiments was conducted by researchers at Chemours and at a third-party testing lab on both healthy and chemically damaged (bleached or relaxed) African, Asian, Caucasian, and Latino hair samples to investigate the role glycolic acid could play in the formulation of hair care products.

The results confirmed that when Glypure™ was added to hair care products, it had significant, positive effects—Glypure™ penetrates throughout the hair shaft, enhancing the softness, protection, and manageability of both healthy and chemically damaged hair.

How Glycolic Acid Works in the Hair

Hair is a complex structure that can be broken down into four parts: the follicle and the hair bulb, root, and shaft. The hair shaft consists of the cuticle, cortex, and medulla. The cuticle layer is responsible for visual attributes of hair, such as shine and smoothness. It is also responsible for the friction effect of hair, which determines manageability (i.e., how easy it is to comb or brush hair). The cuticle layer can be damaged by daily grooming, such as combing and brushing, as well as by chemical treatments, such as bleaching or relaxing. The cortex contains pigment and is responsible for structural integrity, strength, swelling, and stretching of the hair.
When it comes to cosmetic-grade glycolic acid, Glypure™ sets the standard:

- Exceptional purity levels for personal care products
- Clear, colorless appearance
- Reliable, consistent supply from a dedicated production line
- Odorless
- Compatibility with other compounds and ingredients
- Biodegradability

Multiple Benefits for Hair Care Products

Studies have shown that Glypure™ penetrates throughout the hair shaft, an effect that persists even after the hair dries. That's why adding Glypure™ to hair care formulations enables these products to provide important benefits that deliver the attributes consumers desire:

- Helps make hair better able to withstand heat. Glypure™ in a hair conditioning formulation delivers a moisturizing effect, making it ideal for hair that is styled with high-wattage blow dryers, hot curlers, curling irons, and straightening irons—without concerns about damaging the hair.
- Makes hair more manageable, easier to style. Glypure™ in a hair conditioning formulation provides hair with superior lubricity that results in less friction and entanglement during combing and brushing, making hair less prone to breakage.
- Helps make hair feel softer and smoother. Glypure™ in a hair conditioning formulation causes a significant decrease in elastic modulus, which is consistent with the effect of moisture on hair.
- Moisturizes and exfoliates the scalp, resulting in less flaking, to give the scalp a healthy look and feel. With a long-proven reputation as an effective exfoliant and moisturizer for the skin, Glypure™ provides this important added benefit to the scalp when used in hair care products.

Glypure™ is available in three grades*

Glypure™ 70 is a purified liquid form of glycolic acid. It is an aqueous solution at 70% concentration.

Glypure™ 99 is a highly purified crystalline form of glycolic acid for applications where avoidance of water is necessary. It is constituted as small, prismatic crystals of 99+% purity.

Pre-neutralized Glypure™ is an aqueous solution neutralized with ammonium hydroxide. It is available in a variety of pH levels—2.25, 3.25, 3.8, 4.0, 4.4—as well as custom pH.

*All grades are also available with a pass-through license from TriStrata, a wholly owned subsidiary of NeoStrata Company, Inc., and are designated Glypure™ L.

Unmatched Services

In addition to high quality and reliable supply, our customers have the added advantage of access to a dedicated, professional staff of technical service representatives, formulating chemists, and analytical chemists for help with technical questions, assistance with new product development, and advice to help ensure the success of products made with Glypure™—all at no additional charge.

We also offer a wide variety of starting point formulations using Glypure™ for skin, hair, nails, and men's personal care products. These formulations are for products ranging from face creams and revitalizing peels to shampoos, conditioners, razor bump treatments, and much more. To meet evolving marketplace needs, we also regularly introduce new starting point formulations.

No License Required

For most of the global market, you do not need to worry about managing a licensed product. You have the freedom to use Glypure™ in new products to meet increasing consumer demand, without the added concern or expense of a licensing agreement. In addition, in Canada, where a license is still required, we offer Glypure™ L, which provides all the benefits of our cosmetic-grade glycolic acid plus the convenience of a pass-through license.