

Bismuth subcarbonate

Bismuth subcarbonate is a basic salt having variable composition.

Method of preparation

It is prepared by adding an acid solution of **bismuth salt** to a hot solution of **sodium carbonate** and stirring constantly.

The precipitate is filtered and washed with an equal volume of cold water and dried at a temperature not above 60 °C. Repeated washing has to be avoided it tends to decompose sub carbonate into hydroxide.



Properties

- White or pale yellowish white.
- Odourless and tasteless powder.
- Stable in air but it is slowly affected by light
- Insoluble in alcohol and water; dissolves with **effervescence in HCl.**
- When ignited, it gets decomposed into yellow bismuth trioxide, carbondioxide and water.
- $[(\text{BiO})_2\text{CO}_3]_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O} \text{ -----} \rightarrow \text{BiO}_3 + 2\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

uses

- **Used as an astringent and absorbent.**
- **Used topically as a protective.**
- **As an antacid, it is very mild.**

storage

“Should be stored in well closed
container”