

Texture Troubleshooting Cheat Sheet

Quick fixes for common texture problems in cosmetic formulation.

1. Cream Feels Too Heavy

Reduce high-viscosity oils, butters or waxes. Use lighter oils and butters. Consider including esters or fractionated oils for a lighter skin feel.

2. Serum Pills When Layered

Lower gum/polymer levels, balance humectants with emollients, and conduct layering tests with moisturizers, sunscreen, and makeup.

3. Balm is Too Hard to Spread

Incorporate lower melting-point butters (like mango, murumuru, avocado, illipe nut or cupuacu), or add a small percentage of light liquid oils for better glide.

4. Moisturizer Absorbs Too Fast

Increase occlusives like shea butter, cocoa butter, or natural waxes to lock in hydration for longer.

5. Product Feels Sticky After Application

Reduce glycerin or high-molecular-weight hyaluronic acid. Add slip agents, esters or lightweight emollients to improve after-feel.

6. Texture Changes Over Time in Jar/Tub

Check for stability issues. Review preservative system, emulsifier choice, and conduct accelerated stability tests.

7. Whipped Butters Losing Whip or Becoming Grainy

Use controlled cooling to avoid butter crystallization. Consider tempering butters before whipping.

■ **Pro Tip:** Always run sensory tests alongside lab stability tests. Texture is as much about feel as it is about function.