

27.12 - Petroleum jelly; paraffin wax, microcrystalline petroleum wax, slack wax, ozokerite, lignite wax, peat wax, other mineral waxes, and similar products obtained by synthesis or by other processes, whether or not coloured.

2712.10 - Petroleum jelly

2712.20 - Paraffin wax containing by weight less than 0.75 % of oil

2712.90 - Other

(A) Petroleum jelly.

Petroleum jelly is unctuous to the touch. It is white, yellowish or dark brown in colour. It is obtained from the residues of the distillation of certain crude petroleum oils or by mixing fairly high viscosity petroleum oils with such residues or by mixing paraffin wax or ceresine with a sufficiently refined mineral oil. The heading includes the jelly, whether crude (sometimes called **petrolatum**), decolourised or refined. It also covers petroleum jelly obtained by synthesis.

To fall in this heading petroleum jelly must have a congealing point, as determined by the rotating thermometer method (ASTM D 938), of not less than 30 °C, a density at 70 °C of less than 0.942 g/cm³, a Worked Cone Penetration at 25 °C, as determined by the method ASTM D 217(*), of less than 350, a Cone Penetration at 25 °C, as determined by the ASTM D 937 method, of not less than 80.

This heading **does not**, however, **include** petroleum jelly, suitable for use for the care of the skin, put up in packings of a kind sold by retail for such use (**heading 33.04**).

(B) Paraffin wax, microcrystalline petroleum wax, slack wax, ozokerite, lignite wax, peat wax, other mineral waxes, and similar products obtained by synthesis or by other processes, whether or not coloured.

Paraffin wax is a hydrocarbon wax extracted from certain distillates of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from shale or other bituminous minerals. This wax is translucent, white or yellowish in colour and has a relatively marked crystalline structure.

Microcrystalline petroleum wax is also a hydrocarbon wax. It is extracted from petroleum residues or from vacuum-distilled lubricating oil fractions. It is more opaque than paraffin wax and has a finer and less apparent crystalline structure. Normally it has a higher melting point than paraffin wax. It can vary from soft and plastic to hard and brittle and from dark brown to white in colour.

Ozokerite is a natural mineral wax. When purified it is known as **ceresine**.

Lignite (or Montan) wax and the product known as “ Montan pitch ” are ester waxes extracted from lignite. They are hard and dark when crude, but may be white when refined.

(*) If the sample proves too hard to be “ worked ”, the Worked Cone Penetration (ASTM D 217) should be omitted and the sample should be submitted directly to the Cone Penetration (ASTM D 937).

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Peat wax is physically and chemically similar to lignite wax, but is slightly softer.

The **other mineral waxes** of this heading (**slack wax** and **scale wax**) result from the de-waxing of lubricating oils. They are less refined and have a higher oil content than paraffin wax. Their colour varies from white to light brown.

The heading also includes products similar to those referred to in the heading and obtained by synthesis or by any other process (e.g., synthetic paraffin wax and synthetic microcrystalline wax). However, the heading **does not include** high polymer waxes such as polyethylene wax. These fall in **heading 34.04**.

All these waxes are covered by the heading whether crude or refined, mixed together or coloured. They are used for making candles (especially paraffin wax), polishes, etc., for insulating, dressing textiles, impregnating matches, protection against rust, etc.

However, the following products are classified in **heading 34.04** :

- (a) Artificial waxes obtained by the chemical modification of lignite wax or other mineral waxes.
- (b) Mixtures, not emulsified or containing solvents, consisting of :
 - (i) Waxes of this heading mixed with animal waxes (including spermaceti), vegetable waxes or artificial waxes.
 - (ii) Waxes of this heading mixed with fats, resins, mineral substances or other materials, provided they have a waxy character.