

SHEA TECH CERTIFICATION
ONLINE COURSE
MODULE 3



**Grading and Clinical
Properties of Shea Butter**

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UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

A. ASBI Grading and Laboratory Analysis

To understand grades of Shea Butter one must first understand several important facts about Shea Butter, such as what sets shea apart from all other oils. The exceptionally large bioactive fraction distinguishes Shea Butter from all other vegetable oils.

The Various Grades of Shea Butter

Shea Butter comes in different grades: Grade A; Grade B; Grade C; Grade D or Grade F. Certified Premium Grade A is the highest and best quality for the Personal Care Industry.

It is extremely important to understand that the only means of determining the Grade, quality and safety of Shea butter is comprehensive lab tests and analysis. You cannot determine Grade, quality and safety of Shea butter by:

- Its look;
- Its feel;
- Its absorption into the skin; and,
- Its smell,



UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

B. Key Desirable Ingredients

- Cinnamic acid;
- Sterols;
- Bioactive;
- Vitamins;
- Essential Fatty acids; and,
- Vitamin E



UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

C. Description of Various Grades

Grade A contains an abundance (exceptionally highest amount) of bioactive nutrients, will pass a rigorous safety screen, and shelf life studies confirm a stability greater than one year.

Grade B contains a moderate level of bioactive nutrients, passes a rigorous safety screen, and shelf life studies confirm stability greater than one year.

Grade C contains a low level of bioactive nutrients, passes a rigorous safety screen, and shelf life studies confirm stability greater than one year.

Grade D Any Shea Butter that passes a rigorous safety screen, but has a shelf life less than one year, automatically receives the Grade of D. Because Grade D has a commercial life of only a few months, the highest level of bioactive nutrients will not increase the commercial life and commercial value of the product.

Grade F Shea Butter contaminated with undesirable ingredients, or contaminated with ingredients that may be harmful to the health and wellbeing of the consumer will fail the safety screen. Any Shea Butter that does not pass the safety screen is not fit for human use; Such Shea Butter receives a quality score of Grade F.



UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

D. Undesirable Ingredients

- Protein;
- Debris;
- High Peroxide;
- High Free fatty Acids;
- High Iron;
- Mercury;
- Lead; and,
- Mold

Sometimes you will hear the terms cosmetic grade and edible grade. Both are simply refined Shea Butter referred to by another name. When laboratory analysis is performed on cosmetic grades and edible grades both earn the grade of C. You should also know refined Shea Butter, unlike unrefined Shea Butter, contains one or more of the chemical preservatives to give a the shelf life of 18 months or more. The natural preservatives in unrefined Shea Butter are removed at the time of refining.



UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

E. Industry Jargon

In the Marketplace, you will also hear the term LOTTO BUTTER, or lotto grade. Some use the term lotto butter to refer to Shea Butter that has not been tested and graded. As the word implies, buying “lotto butter” is the same as buying a lottery ticket. Un-tested Shea Butter (“lotto butter”) could be very good butter or it could be your worst nightmare. If it contains mercury, lead or other harmful agents, one never knows without a sound laboratory analysis. Be sure to never use shea butter that has not been properly tested. Any shea butter with mercury, or lead, or microbial growth or other harmful agents will not pass the safety screen.

More recently the term organic shea or organic grade Shea Butter can be heard in the market. All shea butter is organic. The tree grows without human assistance. However, it is next to impossible to obtain shea butter that lives up to the true meaning of the term certified organic. Those who understand Shea Butter know the problems of declaring Shea Butter certified organic.



UNDERSTANDING THE VARIOUS GRADES OF SHEA BUTTER

E. Industry Jargon (continued)

You are advised to be careful with those who promote certified organic Shea Butter. They are either fraudulent or do not understand the Shea tree and its exposure in the wild. This caution also applies to those with the so-called USDA Certified Organic, or even seriously fraudulent FDA Certified Organic Shea Butter.

On the market you will see Shea Butter sold as retail, bulk or even wholesale. Bulk and wholesale are often used interchangeably. When used it usually refers to amounts greater than a few pounds, while retail often refers to very small amounts often less than one or two pounds and in some cases as small as two or four ounces.



TOP TEN USES OF CERTIFIED PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

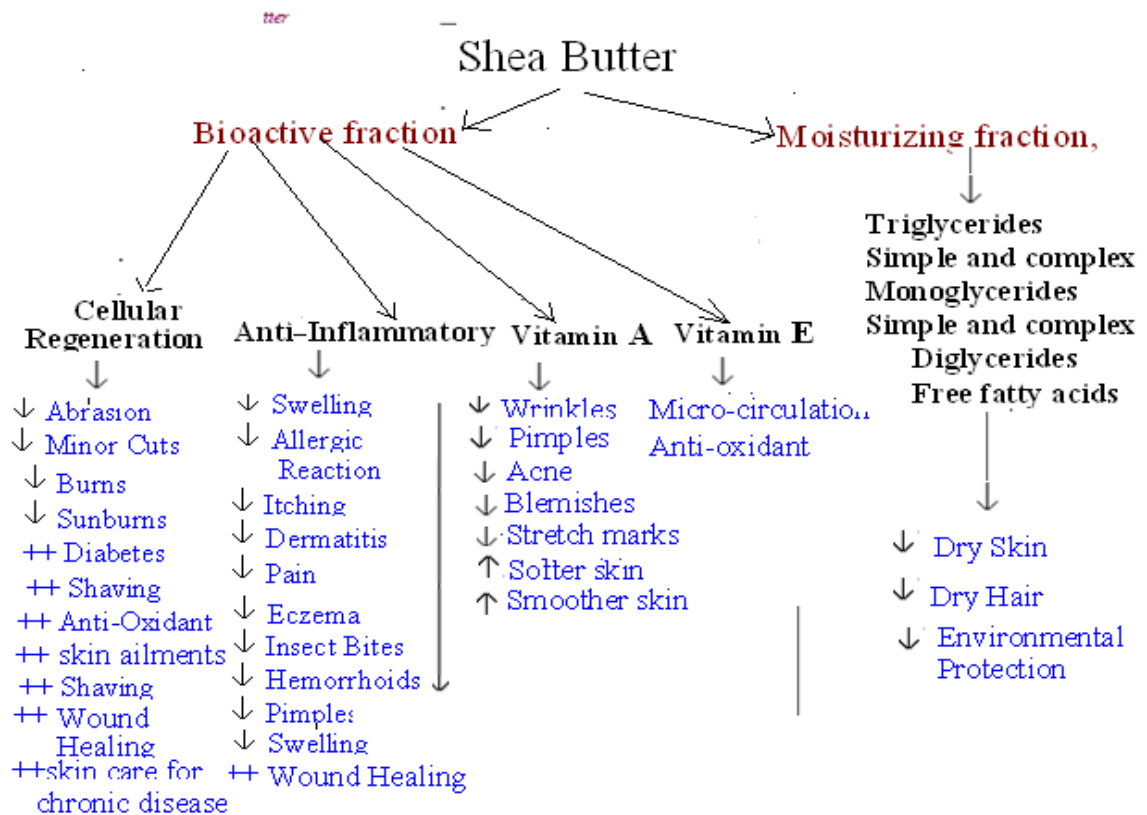
Unrefined Shea Butter is in a unique class, as a stand-alone personal care product. When ASBI surveyed 463 regular users of Certified Premium Grade A Shea Butter,

The top 10 treatable conditions are:

1. Dry Skin;
2. Eczema cream;
3. Blemish cream;
4. For Softer Smoother skin;
5. For Burns and burn gel;
6. Wrinkles Reduction cream;
7. Dry Hair;
8. Shaving cream;
9. Anti-itch cream; and,
10. Skin Abrasions.



BIOACTIVE VS MOISTURIZING FRACTION OF SHEA BUTTER



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MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

The healing fraction in Shea butter contains all the miracle secrets of Shea butter.

The migration cycle of skin cells originating at the germinal layer arriving at the surface , the stratum corneum, explains why daily application of shea butter changes the skin in as little as 4 to 6 weeks.

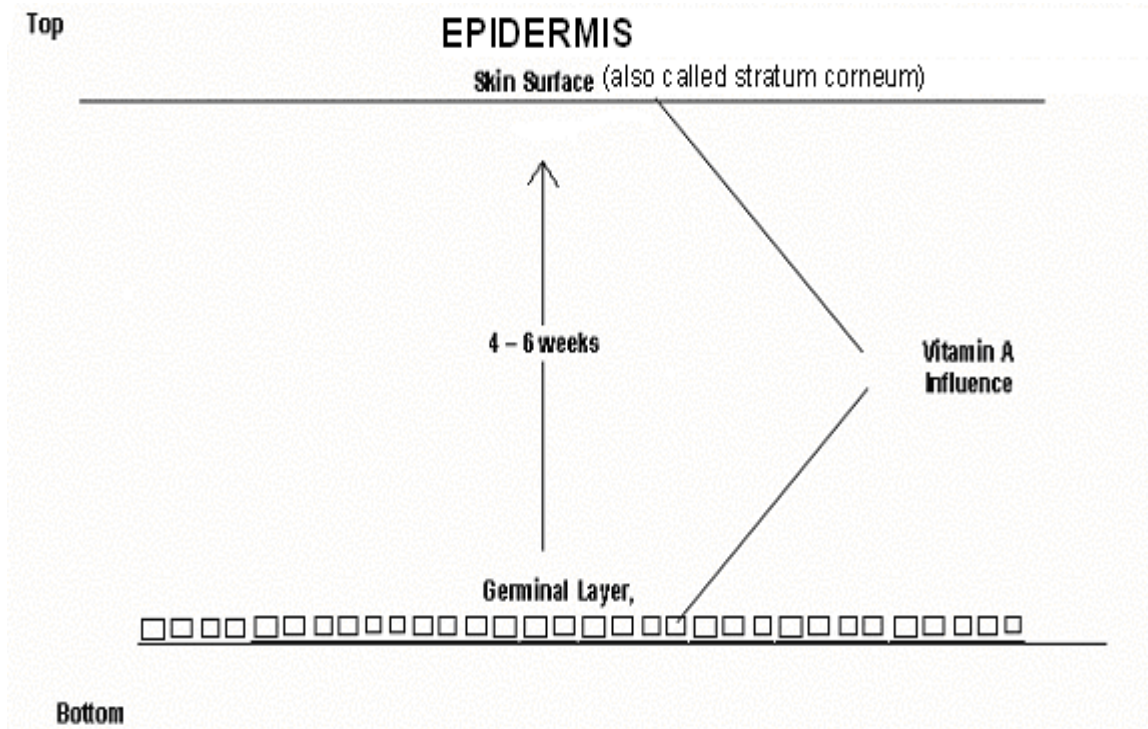
From an anatomical standpoint, the epidermis can be divided into two parts, namely, a top layer and a bottom layer. This division helps understand the benefits of shea butter when applied to the skin.

The top layer of epidermis is called *the stratum corneum*. Stratum corneum contains the substance keratin. Stratum corneum is also the layer where the skin shedding takes place.

The bottom layer of the epidermis is called the germinal layer. The Germinal layer contains the very valuable stem cells that will produce all future skin cells to replace those that are shedding at the top layer (stratum corneum).



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER



For normal, healthy skin adequate Vitamin A is a mandatory requirement for growth and development to occur as the new skin cell moves from the basal layer (bottom layer of the epidermis) to the stratum corneum (top layer of the epidermis).



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

Cells in the germinal layer divide daily to give new cells to replace shedding skin at the top layer of the epidermis. The new cells produced by the germinal layer today requires 4 to 6 weeks to migrate to the top layer (stratum corneum) During this 4-6 weeks migration many metabolic changes occur within the cell before it arrives at the top layer (stratum corneum)

Vitamin A and other ingredients in the healing fraction play a key role in the metabolic changes that takes place in the transition from bottom layer (germinal layer) to top layer (stratum corneum). You should now understand why daily use of unrefined shea butter for 4-6 weeks transforms your skin into a soft smooth better looking skin. If you understand this, likewise, you should understand why it's important to find shea butter with the largest healing fraction. You should also understand that soybean oil, corn oil, or beef tallow does not improve your skin as those shea butters.



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

1. Youthful skin and the enzyme Elastase?

Elastin is the substance (protein) that allows the skin to stretch and recoil. As the name implies, it is elastic. The supple, youthful resilience of the skin is essentially a property of Elastin. An enzyme called Elastase has the unique ability to degrade or destroy Elastin.

2. What is the role of Elastase in the aging of the skin?

As we age, Elastase plays a greater role in degrading Elastin.

3. What is in Premium Shea Butter that retards Elastase aging of the skin?

The triterpenes Lupeol and Beta-Amyrin, as well as Vitamin A and cinnamic acid, all have shown to exhibit Elastase inhibitory activity. It is reasonable to conclude that regular use of Shea Butter may retard the destruction of Elastin, therefore keeping the skin youthful, supple and resilient. Triterpenes, Vitamin A and cinnamic acid are all healing ingredients. To that end, these ingredients are important quality indicators for Shea Butter.



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

4. What is in Premium Shea Butter that facilitates or promotes wrinkle reduction?

Vitamin A and sterols play a key role in wrinkle reduction. These ingredients are important in determining the quality of shea butter, therefore quality indicators.

5. What is in Premium Shea Butter that is beneficial for Athletes?

Vitamin E, is thought in enhance microcirculation.

6. What is in Premium Shea Butter that treats Eczema?

The Anti-inflammatory agents are responsible for this clinical phenomenon. In the USA improvement in Eczema from the use of Shea Butter is the second most celebrated benefit of this product. Eczema is an inflammatory condition often caused by some type of allergen. This is one of many observations that support the unparalleled benefits of Shea Butter.



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

7. What is in Premium Shea Butter that allows it to treat frostbite and sunburn?

Moisturizers and Anti-inflammatory agents are responsible for this clinical benefit.

8. What is in Premium Shea Butter that lessens the sting after an insect bite?

Anti-inflammatory agents are responsible for this clinical benefit.

9 . What is in Premium Shea Butter that treats skin damaged by heat (hot grease radiation treatment or hot iron etc.)?

The Moisturizers and the anti- inflammatory agents.

10. What is in Premium Shea Butter that safely arrests the body’s itching mechanism?

All the anti-inflammatory agents are responsible for this clinical phenomenon.

11. What is in Premium Shea Butter that allows it to treat hemorrhoids?

Moisturizers, Vitamin E, and Anti-inflammatory agents are responsible for treating hemorrhoids



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

12. What makes Premium Shea Butter such a superior shaving cream?

Remember the Four P's for the Shea Butter Shave:

- Prepares the skin for the shave
- Protects the skin during the shave
- Provides nourishment for the skin after the shave
- Promotes natural healing of the shaved area

Premium Shea Butter reduces the shearing force between the skin and the blade, thus allowing for a less traumatic, smoother, closer shave. After the shave, there is no need for after-shave lotions or creams. The Shea Butter continues to nourish the shaved area (legs, face, and arm pits) all day long. This nourishment includes: moisturizing properties, wound healing properties, and anti-inflammatory properties. Shea Butter is an all-in-one shaving cream. No other ingredients are needed. The use of Shea Butter for shaving gives healthy better-looking skin as a by-product of a needed procedure.



MIRACLES OF PREMIUM GRADE “A” SHEA BUTTER

13. What is in Shea Butter that is beneficial to the hair root and hair shaft?

Unlike the skin, the hair requires the saponifiable fraction more so than the bioactive fraction. The hair depends almost exclusively on the sebaceous gland to produce oils. Because soaps and detergents remove sebaceous products, Shea Butter can replace sebaceous products lost to soaps and detergents.

14. What is in Premium Shea Butter that serves as a sunscreen?

Cinnamic acid and latex absorbs radiation in the ultraviolet spectrum in the range of 290 to 320 nm. Shea Butter has a SPF of about 3 or 4. Shea Butter alone does not meet the recommended SPF of 15. Therefore the butter alone cannot be marketed as a sunscreen. On the other hand, Shea Butter may be used in combination with other products to produce sunscreens that achieve a SPF of 15, 30 or higher



SHEA BUTTER AND ALLERGIES

15. What is in Shea Butter that can trigger an allergic reaction?

Because of the presence of latex in unrefined shea butter, Person with Latex allergy may experience an allergic reaction to shea butter. To that end, when the issue of allergies to Shea Butter arises, it is advisable to inquire about latex allergies. Persons with latex allergies should be cautioned before using Shea Butter. Further, any user of Shea Butter who experiences an allergic reaction to Shea Butter should be encouraged to see their personal physician for allergy screening for a latex allergy. The American Shea Butter Institute performs the test that determines if your Shea Butter contains the substances that can cause an allergic reaction.

