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(54) Title: BODY POLISH, MOISTURIZING SALT BODY SCRUB (57) Abstract A skin scrub composition, and method for exfoliating, moisturizing and protecting the skin are provided. The composition is composed of sea salt, carrier oil, essential oil and/or fragrance oil, and a lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier. In use, when the clear oil and salt composition is rubbed onto skin, it becomes an opaque creamy material that exfoliates while moisturizing the skin in the same time it takes to use conventional soap. When rinsed off, the composition leaves no oily residue on the skin or the shower/tub surface. Also provided are a process for preparing the composition, and an article of manufacture containing the composition and related components for treating the skin.		

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BODY POLISH, MOISTURIZING SALT BODY SCRUB

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This application relates to a composition for use as a body scrub, particularly
5 to an exfoliating, moisturizing, and protecting skin treatment, and methods of its use.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Human skin naturally creates a protective cream-like layer made of sebum, lecithin, cholesterol and water. Bathing daily with chlorinated municipal water and
10 harsh soaps strips the skin of its natural protective layer. To overcome this problem and hydrate the skin, people use oils or creams and lotions composed of water, emulsifiers and emollients, i.e., oils, fats, or lipids. However, such treatments do not provide deep moisturizing of the skin, nor do they replace the protective layer which has been stripped.

15 Exfoliation, the practice of rubbing coarse grains over the skin for cleansing is older than soap, and various compositions have been developed for that purpose. Exfoliation is the removal of dead skin cells from the outer dermal layers. Exfoliation can be achieved by rubbing the skin with a washcloth, loofah, pumice stone or other tool, or with loose grains such as ground nut shells or pits, ground pumice, sugar, salt
20 or oatmeal, or with chemicals such as alpha hydroxy acids or fruit acids that loosen and break down the outer dermal layer.

Salt scrub products have been produced from different kinds of salts with varying results. Some scrubs use salt that is too coarse. For example, traditional bath salts are typically composed of coarse salts, such as the body scrub products provided
25 under the trademark V'tae®. Products containing coarse salt or Epsom salt are commonly used in spas. Quite often, the sharp and rough salt scratches the person's skin to the point of breaking the skin, and the salt then stings the skin making the experience less than enjoyable.

Some salt scrubs use salt that is too fine. A salt scrub sold under the
30 trademark Wood Spirits™ uses such a finer salt. However, with a fine salt, not enough open space is provided between the salt granules to maintain the comparatively lighter oil between the granules. As a result, the salt granules tend to

fall out of solution forming a layer on the bottom of the container. The user must then mix the salt and oil together before use. With such a product, the user tends to use up the oil component at an early stage, and is then left with a layer of hard, dry salt at the bottom of the jar. This is unacceptable to consumers.

5 Featured by many spas as an exfoliation treatment is a salt composition known as a "salt glow." Most commonly, salt glow treatments need to be mixed by the therapist before use. This mixing procedure takes valuable time, the spas' most precious commodity.

10 In an attempt to maintain the salt in solution and eliminate mixing time, some products, such as Origins® salt rub, include chemical stabilizers and preservatives such as methyl, butyl and propyl parabens. Although parabens give the oils a gelatinous feel and help hold the salt in solution, they can cause dermatitis and allergic reactions.

15 Once the skin is exfoliated, the pores are open, and vulnerable. Some salt scrubs use salt and a liquid surfactant, or soap. Salt glows which use salt and soap leave the skin exfoliated but dry. A moisturizer and protection should be applied to freshly exfoliated skin to prevent dehydration. Moisturizing can be achieved with oils, butters, creams, animal fats, and other modern synthetic emollients.

20 Many of the above described salt and oil products also leave the skin feeling oily, which consumers can find unpleasant. To overcome this, some cosmetic manufacturers have added chemicals such as the Origins™ products. Other have altogether replaced oil-based moisturizers with synthetic chemicals. Bath and Body Works™ has attempted to formulate a salt-based moisturizing scrub using dimethicone, which is marketed under the name "Aromatherapy Salt Scrub."

25 Although the product's shelf life may be indefinite, the effect on the skin is extremely damaging and drying.

 Another drawback of present oil and salt scrub compositions is that an oily residue can be deposited on the soles of the user's feet and on the shower floor which presents the danger of slipping and injuring oneself. Many companies suggest
30 standing on a towel and cleansing with the salt scrub outside the shower, and then stepping into the shower to rinse off. This places the user in the precarious position of stepping in and out of the shower with oily feet. It also fails to address the problem of

oil that is rinsed off the body and deposited onto the floor of the shower, leaving it dangerously oily and slick. Spa attendants and therapists also get unwanted oil spots on their uniforms, requiring special cleaning.

Therefore, an object of the invention is to provide a body scrub that overcomes
5 the disadvantages of current body scrub products.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These and other objects are achieved by the present invention, which provides an exfoliating and moisturizing body and skin scrub composition. Advantageously,
10 the method of using the composition to exfoliate, soften and protect the skin takes no more time than using regular soap in the shower. Further, the product achieves much more than any of the salt and oil blends currently being marketed.

The composition is made with a salt which is neither too coarse or too fine. The crystalline sea salt grains are consistent in shape and size to effectively exfoliate
15 without scratching the skin. The edges are sharp enough to exfoliate the outer dermal layer, without being jagged enough to break the skin's deeper layers. The salt is also anti-bacterial so it "cleanses" the skin. The salt dissolves in the bath water rather than settling to the bottom creating the uncomfortable feeling of sitting on gritty particles.

The miniscule cubes of salt lay upon each other askew enabling the oils to
20 occupy the space in between, much like water in a glass full of ice. This allows the salt to remain saturated with oil throughout the composition, even though the specific gravity of the salt is much higher than that of the oil, which would tend to displace the oil. Unlike many others, this composition does not require synthetic gels or stabilizers in order to maintain the salt suspended in solution.

25 The composition can be packaged pre-mixed in single use treatment packets for sale to spas. Since the salt and oil remain in solution, no measuring or mixing time is required to prepare the product for use. The therapist can roll the packet between their hands to blend the product into a flowable substance, squeeze out of the packet into a bowl and apply directly to the client. The whole process takes less than
30 a minute to execute, a significant reduction of preparation time.

The composition is preferably made with organic and natural oils, which moisturize the skin naturally and effectively. The present composition provides a

superior skin cleanser, moisturizer, and protector which has a reasonable shelf life without needing synthetic or non-natural preservatives. Advantageously, the composition does not need synthetic ingredients to perform its functions, and is therefore marketable to the booming health and wellness industry. Chemical and synthetic ingredients are not acceptable under the Organic Crop Improvement International Association (OCIA) guidelines for organic skin care products.

The addition of lecithin-derived phospholipids to the composition renders the oils water soluble. The oils readily rinse away from the shower floor, and are easily washable from towels or clothing.

The composition is a blend of organic and/or natural oils, an oil-based fragrance that is an essential oil and/or fragrance oil, a natural phospholipid emulsifier and a tocopherol anti-oxidant, and salt. A preferred oil/salt formulation is about 75-77% salt and 23-25% oil blend. Preferably, the oil blend is composed of about 94-96% carrier oil and about 1-2% essential oils and/or fragrance oils, 1-2% Vitamin E oil (tocopherols) antioxidant, and 2-3% lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier.

The process of body polishing with the present scrub composition enables deep absorption of the oils, and leaves a protective liposome layer in no more time than it takes to use soap in a shower. When the skin scrub composition is applied to wet skin, the salt exfoliates the skin as the essentially clear oil and salt absorbs deeply into the inner dermal layers through the opened (by warm water) and exfoliated (by the salt) pores. When rinsed off with water, the composition leaves the skin, smoothed, deeply moisturized, and protected by a liposome layer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides an oil/salt composition for use in exfoliating, moisturizing, and protecting the surface of the skin. The composition is a mixture that includes fine crystalline salt, a natural or organic oil, a natural antioxidant preservative, a lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier, and an essential and/or fragrance oil. The ingredients are blended together to provide a finished composition that has a clear oil consistency with the salt granules suspended throughout. The composition can be formulated using all organic or natural materials. Although

synthetic materials could be used, no such ingredients are required to produce the desired results. The composition has a shelf life in excess of one year.

The salt is in the form of a sea salt that has been dissolved in water, and purified of essentially all mineral, chemical and metal contaminants. A preferred sea salt is composed of about 99.95% minimum sodium chloride, 0.04% maximum sodium sulfate, 60 ppm maximum calcium and magnesium (as calcium (Ca)), 0.5 ppm maximum iron, and 0.4 ppm maximum copper. The purified salt water is then sprayed into super-heated ovens such that as the water evaporates, the sodium re-crystallizes. The newly formed crystals are of substantially identical crystalline shape. The salt is then screened to achieve a substantially uniform size, preferably about 0.005-0.02 inches, more preferably between about 0.0165 inches at the largest and about 0.0059 at the smallest. The salt granules are in the shape of crystalline cubes, and substantially devoid of sharp or jagged edges. The grade of salt is known in the industry as "fine." An example of a suitable salt is Cullinox™ 999 Fine (Code SLT 1317; Morton International).

The size and shape of the sea salt are adequate such that the salt granules do not cause substantial scratching or injury to the surface of the skin like a coarse rock salt or Epsom salt. The size of the salt is also suitable to maintain the oil component between the salt grains all the way to the bottom of the container so that a major portion of the salt will stay consistently in solution. This provides a salt scrub composition for which the last scoop remains essentially just as oily as the first.

The oil blend is composed of a major amount of a natural base oil, preferably about 80-98%, more preferably about 90-98%, more preferably about 95%. Examples of suitable carrier oils are edible vegetable oils such as apricot kernel oil, avocado oil, borage oil, evening primrose oil, hemp seed oil, jojoba oil, macadamia nut oil, neem oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, sweet almond oil, walnut oil, canola oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, olive oil, grape seed oil, corn oil, palm oil, coconut oil, sesame oil, herbal-infused oils such as calendula, medicinal oils such as rose hip seed oil, and the like. Each oil has different properties such as absorption rate, viscosity, and beneficial moisturizing and emollient effects upon the skin. Preferably, a thinner oil which absorbs readily into the skin such as grape seed oil or sunflower oil is used. Preferably, an organically processed oil is used, thus ensuring that the skin absorbs

only naturally occurring chemical compounds which the body can metabolize. The enhanced market value of certified organic products is proven.

The present composition is formulated to eliminate the general necessity for synthetic or chemical preservatives which can irritate the skin, or preservatives that contain alcohol which can dehydrate the skin. As the composition does not contain an emulsion of oil and water, a preservative against bacterial and mold growth is not required to ensure a reasonable shelf life. Rather, the present oil-based composition is formulated with an effective amount of a natural antioxidant such as a tocopherol (Vitamin E active) or a mixture of tocopherols, to keep the oils fresh and inhibit rancidity. Advantageously, the Vitamin E oil is nutritive and beneficial for skin. The composition can be formulated with about 0.5-10% Vitamin E (tocopherol), the amount depending on the IU of the Vitamin E that is used. Preferably, the amount of antioxidant incorporated into the composition is effective to maintain the freshness of the composition for up to about three years.

The emulsifying component is a lecithin-derived phospholipid, such as those available under the brand name Lipoderm™ from I.R.D. Corporation, Stafford, Virginia. This natural emulsifier renders the oils water soluble, leaving no oily residue on skin, or shower floors. Any oils spilled on clothing or towels washes out readily. Preferably, the phospholipid emulsifier has the following characteristics: the molecules are one part hydrophilic (water attracting) and two parts lipophilic (oil attracting), and the hydrophilic part consists of a phosphate ester with two lipophilic fatty acid chains attached. This structure forms the outer layer of nearly every living system. The attribute of phospholipids to form membranes spontaneously outside of a living system have made this substance an ideal ingredient to nourish and protect the skin. The membrane acts as a true anti-aging treatment by preventing the formation of early wrinkles. It act as an extra layer of protection against the damaging effects of wind and pollution and to smooth the skin by strengthening and repairing the surface of the epidermis. These spontaneously forming membranes are called liposomes. The composition can be formulated with about 0.5-15% phospholipid emulsifier.

Essential oils and/or fragrance oils are well known in the art and include, for example, lavender, rose geranium, rosewood, tangerine, ginger, cinnamon, clove, fir needle, sage, cedarleaf, eucalyptus, rosemary, neroli, chamomile, myrrh, and

peppermint among others. Such oils are readily commercially available. The composition includes an effective amount of one or more essential oils and/or fragrance oils to provide the desired degree of fragrance. In this formulation, the essential oils and/or fragrance oils can serve the purpose of providing "aromatherapy" treatment. The essential oils are antibacterial and act to preserve the carrier oils as well. Preferably, the total amount of oil-based fragrance (essential oil and/or fragrance oil) in the oil blend is about 1-10%, depending upon the particular oil that is used.

The skin scrub composition preferably includes:

- 10 a) about 65-85% sea salt, preferably about 70-80%; and
- b) about 15-35% oil blend, preferably 20-30%, including:
 - (i) about 80-98 % carrier oil, preferably about 90-98%;
 - (ii) about 0.5-10 % oil-based fragrance, preferably about 1-5%;
 - (iii) about 1-15% lecithin-derived phospholipid, preferably about 2-10%; and
 - 15 (iv) about 0.5-10% Vitamin E oil antioxidant (mixed tocopherol), preferably about 1-5%.

A preferred composition for the skin scrub is composed of:

- 20 a) about 75-77% sea salt; and
- b) about 23-25% oil blend, including:
 - (i) about 94-96 % carrier oil;
 - (v) about 1-2% oil-based fragrance.
 - (vi) about 2-3% phospholipid; and
 - 25 (vii) about 1-2% Vitamin E oil antioxidant (mixed tocopherol).

The composition is generally prepared by combining together the liquid components; i.e., the carrier oil, essential oil and/or fragrance oil, and lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier, to form an oil blend. The salt is then added to the oil blend to saturation. The resulting salt and oil blend is a clear yellow mixture with the salt suspended in the oil substantially uniformly throughout.

To use, the person steams, soaks or showers to open the pores and hydrate the skin. The salt scrub composition is taken by the handful and rubbed onto the surface of the wet skin. As the product is rubbed onto the skin, the salt crystals act as microblenders whipping the oils, phospholipids and water into a frothy cream. When
5 applied to the skin, the composition changes from a clear, yellow oil appearance to a white, creamy appearance.

Hydrated skin is more readily exfoliated through the abrasion of the sea salt, opening the skin for the absorption of the oils. Although bathing with warm water opens the pores to enhance oil absorption, the addition of exfoliation is a key element
10 to deep absorption. With no dead skin blocking the opened pores, the oils can be worked deeply into each pore. As the composition is used on wet skin in the bath or shower, the skin continues to hydrate for effective moisturizing. Extra exfoliation time can be taken to treat rough or dry areas. Generally, the use of the composition on the skin takes no longer than it takes to use conventional soap. The body is then
15 rinsed with water to remove the salt, dead skin cells and other residue of the exfoliation, and any excess oils. The skin is then towel dried. No soap or moisturizer is needed.

Advantageously, the phospholipid/oil residue that is washed off the skin onto the shower floor, is not oily or slippery and rinses cleanly. No oil residue is deposited
20 on the surface of the shower floor. In addition, the scrub composition does not leave unwanted oil stains on towels or clothing. The present scrub composition achieves a non-oily feel of an oil-free moisturizer without synthetic ingredients. The composition can also be used to prepare the skin for shaving or as a pre-massage body scrub.

25 The composition can be packaged as part of an article of manufacture or kit, that includes a therapeutic amount of the composition in a container such as a capped tube, plastic pouch, lidded jar, and the like, together with directions or instructions for the use of the composition to exfoliate the skin.

Single use treatment portions of about 2 to 4 ounces can be packaged in a
30 container such as, a capped tube, a plastic pouch, or other container having a suitable opening for dispensing the material. In use, the tube or pouch can be rolled between the user's hands. The rolling movement causes the tiny grains of salt to blend the

phospholipid component and the oil into an emulsion. The resulting frothy material is flowable enabling the composition to be packaged in tubes and other like containers with a relatively narrow orifice through which the material can be dispensed.

The present composition provides a product that cleanses the skin with
5 anti-bacterial properties of salt, prepares the skin for absorption with the gently exfoliating crystals of salt, moisturizes the skin with organic and natural oils and Vitamin E oil, and protects the skin by creating a phospholipid liposome layer over the outer dermal layer. The product itself remains in solution, and has a shelf life of over one year. All of this is achieved without the use of synthetic ingredients. The
10 markets for which this composition is appropriate are thus vast, including, cosmetic, salon, spas, health and wellness and therapeutic applications.

The invention has been described by reference to detailed examples and methodologies. These examples are not meant to limit the scope of the invention. Variations within the concepts of the invention are apparent to those skilled in the art.
15 The disclosures of the cited references throughout the application are incorporated by reference herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exfoliating skin scrub composition, comprising:
crystalline salt, a natural carrier oil, lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier, tocopherol anti-oxidant, and an oil-based fragrance;
wherein the composition is a substantially clear mixture of oil and salt, with a major amount of the salt being suspended and saturated in the oil substantially uniformly throughout; and when applied to wet skin, the composition exfoliates and moisturizes the skin.
2. A method for exfoliating skin, comprising:
applying the composition of claim 1 onto wet skin; and
scrubbing the composition on the skin for a time period effective to exfoliate the skin.
3. A process of making a composition, comprising:
blending together a carrier oil, oil-based fragrance, Vitamin E oil antioxidant, and a lecithin-based phospholipid emulsifier, at a ratio of about 1-15 parts emulsifier to about 80-98 parts carrier oil, about 0.5-10 parts oil-based fragrance, and about 0.5-10% Vitamin E oil to form an oil blend; and
mixing the oil blend with sea salt to saturation, at a ratio of about 65-85 parts salt to about 15-35 parts oil blend to form a clear mixture with the salt suspended in the oil substantially uniformly throughout.
4. Use of the composition of claim 1 in the preparation of a medicament for exfoliating the skin.
5. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of carrier oil to salt is about 15-35 parts oil to about 65-85 parts salt.

6. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the carrier oil to salt ratio is about 24-26 parts oil to about 75-77 parts salt.
7. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of phospholipid emulsifier to carrier oil is about 1-15 parts emulsifier to about 80-98 parts oil.
8. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of phospholipid emulsifier to carrier oil is about 1.5-5 parts emulsifier to about 85-98 parts oil.
9. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of phospholipid emulsifier to carrier oil is about 2-3:94-96.
10. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of carrier oil to tocopherol anti-oxidant is about 0.5-10 parts anti-oxidant to about 80-98 parts carrier oil.
11. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of carrier oil to tocopherol anti-oxidant is about 1-5 parts anti-oxidant to about 85-98 parts carrier oil.
12. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the ratio of carrier oil to tocopherol anti-oxidant is about 1-2 parts anti-oxidant to about 94-96 parts carrier oil.
13. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the composition comprises:
 - a) about 65-85% sea salt; and
 - b) about 15-35% oil blend, including:
 - (i) about 80-98 % carrier oil;
 - (ii) about 0.5-10 % oil-based fragrance;
 - (iii) about 1-15 % lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier, and
 - (iv) about 0.5-10% tocopherol antioxidant.

14. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the composition comprises:
- a) about 75-77% sea salt;
 - b) about 23-25% oil blend, including:
 - (i) about 94-96% carrier oil;
 - (ii) about 1-2% oil-based fragrance;
 - (iii) about 2-3% lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier; and
 - (iv) about 1-2% tocopherol antioxidant.
15. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the composition comprises:
- a) about 70-80% sea salt; and
 - b) about 20-30% oil blend, including:
 - (i) about 90-98% carrier oil;
 - (ii) about 1-5% oil-based fragrance;
 - (iii) about 2-10% lecithin-derived phospholipid emulsifier, and
 - (iv) about 1-5% tocopherol antioxidant.
16. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the carrier oil is selected from the group consisting of apricot kernel oil, avocado oil, borage oil, evening primrose oil, hemp seed oil, jojoba oil, macadamia nut oil, neem oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, sweet almond oil, walnut oil, canola oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, olive oil, grape seed oil, corn oil, palm oil, coconut oil, sesame oil, herbal-infused oil, and medicated oil.
17. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the oil-based fragrance is an essential oil, a synthetic fragrance oil, or a mixture thereof.
18. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the oil-based fragrance is an essential oil selected from the group consisting of lavender, rose geranium, rosewood, tangerine, ginger, cinnamon, clove, fir needle, sage, cedarleaf, eucalyptus, rosemary, neroli, chamomile, myrrh, and peppermint.

19. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the salt has a substantially uniform size and shape.
20. Any of claims 1-4, wherein the grade of the salt is fine and the size of the salt is about 0.005-0.02 inches.
21. Any of claims 1-4, wherein when the composition is rinsed off the skin, substantially no oily residue remains on the skin.
22. A composition prepared by the process of claim 3.
23. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
prior to the scrubbing step, applying warm water to the skin to open the pores of the skin and, after the scrubbing step, working the oil into the pores of the skin to effectively moisturize the skin.
24. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
applying water to the skin to rinse the composition, dead skin cells, and residues off the skin, wherein a liposome layer remains on the skin to protect and smooth the skin.
25. An article of manufacture comprising, packaged together:
a therapeutic amount of the composition of claim 1 in a container; and
directions for use of the composition to exfoliate the skin.
26. The article according to claim 25, comprising a single use treatment portion of about 2-4 ounces packaged in the container.
27. The article according to claim 25, wherein the container is a capped tube, a plastic pouch, or a lidded jar.