

[Home](#)2. [Ciclopirox](#)

# Ciclopirox topical

**Generic name:** ciclopirox topical [ sye-kloe-PEER-ox-TOP-i-kal ]**Brand names:** [Ciclodan](#), [Loprox](#), Ciclodan Kit, [CNL8 Nail](#), [Pedipirox-4](#), [Penlac Nail Lacquer](#), [Loprox TS](#)**Dosage forms:** topical cream (0.77%), topical gel (0.77%), topical kit (0.77% with cleanser; 8%), topical shampoo (1%), ... [show all 5 dosage forms](#)**Drug class:** [Topical antifungals](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jul 31, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

## What is ciclopirox topical?

Ciclopirox is an antifungal medicine that prevents fungus from growing on your skin.

Ciclopirox topical (for the skin) **cream**, **gel**, and **lotion** formulations are used to treat skin infections such as [athlete's foot](#), [jock itch](#), [ringworm](#), and yeast infections.

Ciclopirox **shampoo** is used to treat [seborrheic dermatitis](#), an inflammatory skin condition of the scalp.

Ciclopirox **nail lacquer** is used to treat [fungal infections](#) of the toenails and fingernails.

Ciclopirox topical may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Ciclopirox topical side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**ciclopirox topical may cause serious side effects. Stop using ciclopirox topical and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- unusual or severe [itching](#), redness, burning, dryness, or irritation of treated skin; or
- discoloration or other changes in the nails.

**Common side effects of ciclopirox topical may include:**

- mild burning, itching, or redness.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## Related/similar drugs

### Lotrisone

Lotrisone is used to treat fungal skin infections such as athletes foot, jock itch, and ringworm ...

#### Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Lamisil

Lamisil (terbinafine) is used to treat infections caused by fungus that affect the fingernails or ...

#### Reviews & ratings

6.7 / 10

[138 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

#### FEATURED

### Omvox

Omvox is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

#### Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Roflumilast topical

Roflumilast (Zoryve) cream is used to treat plaque psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, and roflumilast ...

#### Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[49 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

# Warnings

Follow all directions on your medicine label and package. Tell each of your healthcare providers about all your medical conditions, allergies, and all medicines you use.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use ciclopirox if you are allergic to it.

To make sure ciclopirox topical is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- [diabetes](#);
- [epilepsy](#) or other seizure disorder;
- a weak immune system (caused by disease or by using certain medicines); or
- a condition for which you use steroid medication (including [skin conditions](#) or breathing disorders).

Ciclopirox topical is not expected to harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment.

It is not known whether ciclopirox topical passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

**Do not use ciclopirox topical on a child without medical advice.** Ciclopirox **shampoo** and **gel** are not approved for use by anyone younger than 16 years old. Ciclopirox **nail laquer** is not approved for use by anyone younger than 12 years old. Ciclopirox **cream** and **lotion** are not approved for use by anyone younger than 10 years old.

## How should I use ciclopirox topical?

Use exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not use in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Read all patient information, medication guides, and instruction sheets provided to you. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

Wash your hands before and after using this medication, unless you are using ciclopirox to treat a hand condition.

To apply the **cream, gel, or lotion**:

- Clean and dry the affected area. Apply a small amount of the cream (usually twice daily) for 2 to 4 weeks. Follow your doctor's instructions.
- Do not use bandages or dressings that do not allow air to circulate (occlusive dressings) on areas treated with ciclopirox cream or lotion, unless otherwise directed by your doctor. Wear loose-fitting clothing (preferably cotton).
- If the [infection](#) does not clear up in 4 weeks, or if it appears to get worse, see your doctor.

To use ciclopirox **shampoo**:

- Wet the hair and apply approximately 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of the shampoo to the scalp. Up to 2 teaspoons (10 mL) may be used for long hair. Lather and leave on the hair and scalp for 3 minutes. A timer may be used.

- Treatment should be repeated twice per week for 4 weeks, with a minimum of 3 days between applications. If no improvement is seen after 4 weeks of treatment, contact your doctor.

It may take up to 4 weeks before your symptoms improve after using ciclopirox topical cream, gel, lotion, or shampoo. Keep using the medicine as directed and tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

To use ciclopirox **nail lacquer**:

- Use on the nails and immediately surrounding skin only. Avoid contact with other areas. Remove any loose nail or nail material using nail clippers or a nail file.
- Apply ciclopirox nail lacquer once daily (preferably at bedtime) to all affected nails with the applicator brush provided. Apply the lacquer evenly over the entire nail. Where possible, apply the nail lacquer to the underside of the nail and to the skin beneath it. Allow the lacquer to dry (approximately 30 seconds) before putting on socks or stockings. After applying the medication, wait 8 hours before taking a bath or shower.
- Apply ciclopirox nail lacquer daily over the previous coat. Once a week, remove the nail lacquer with alcohol. Remove as much as possible of the damaged nail using nail clippers or nail a file.
- To prevent the screw cap from sticking to the bottle, do not allow the solution to get into the bottle threads. To prevent the solution from drying out, close the bottle tightly after every use.

Treatment with ciclopirox **nail lacquer** may require several months before initial improvement of symptoms is noticed. Up to 48 weeks of daily application of the nail lacquer, monthly removal of the unattached infected nail by a health care professional, and weekly trimming by the patient may be required for complete treatment.

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time. Your symptoms may improve before the infection is completely cleared. Skipping doses may also increase your risk of further infection that is resistant to antifungal medicine.

Store all forms of this medicine at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Once a bottle of ciclopirox **shampoo** is opened, it should be used within 8 weeks.

Ciclopirox **nail lacquer** is flammable. Avoid using near open flame, and do not smoke until the gel has completely dried on your skin.

 [Detailed Ciclopirox topical dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. **Do not** use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

An overdose of ciclopirox topical is not expected to be dangerous. Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medication.

## What should I avoid while using ciclopirox topical?

Avoid contact with the eyes, nose, and inside of the mouth. If this does happen, rinse with water.

Avoid using other medications on the areas you treat with ciclopirox topical unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not use nail polish, artificial nails, or other cosmetic nail products on the nails treated with ciclopirox nail lacquer.

Avoid wearing tight-fitting, synthetic clothing that doesn't allow air circulation. Wear loose-fitting clothing made of cotton and other natural fibers until the infection is healed.

## What other drugs will affect ciclopirox topical?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using, especially:

- an inhaled or topical steroid medicine; or
- seizure medication;

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied ciclopirox. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and [herbal products](#). Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

## Does ciclopirox topical interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

ciclopirox topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Popular FAQ

What home remedies work well for toenail fungus? 

How do I get rid of nail fungus? 

## More about ciclopirox topical

- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(54\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: topical antifungals](#)

- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Ciclopirox advanced reading](#)

## Other brands

[Penlac](#), [Loprox](#), [Ciclodan](#), [CNL8 Nail](#), ... +3 more

## Professional resources

- [Ciclopirox monograph](#)
- [Ciclopirox \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ciclopirox Gel \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ciclopirox Nail Lacquer \(FDA\)](#)
- [Ciclopirox Shampoo \(FDA\)](#)

## Other brands

[Penlac](#), [Loprox](#), [Ciclodan](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Onychomycosis, Toenail](#)
- [Seborrheic Dermatitis](#)
- [Cutaneous Candidiasis](#)
- [Onychomycosis, Fingernail](#)

## Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 8.01.

### DRUG STATUS

#### Availability

**Rx** Prescription only

## Pregnancy & Lactation



Risk data available

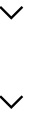
## CSA Schedule\*

N/A Not a controlled drug

## Approval History



Drug history at FDA



## User Reviews & Ratings

7.1 / 10

[54 Reviews](#)

# Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



## About

[About Drugs.com](#)  
[Advertising policy](#)  
[Attribution & citations](#)

## Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)  
[Editorial policy](#)  
[Privacy policy](#)

## Support

[Help center](#)  
[Sitemap](#)  
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.