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Benadryl Allergy

Generic name: [diphenhydramine](#) [DYE-fen-HYE-dra-meen]

Brand names: Allergy (Diphenhydramine HCl), Allergy Relief (Diphenhydramine HCl), [Banophen](#), [Benadryl](#), Benadryl Allergy, ... [show all 41 brands](#)

Drug classes: [Anticholinergic antiemetics](#), [Anticholinergic antiparkinson agents](#), [Antihistamines](#), [Miscellaneous anxiolytics, sedatives and hypnotics](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Mar 31, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is Benadryl Allergy?

Benadryl Allergy is an antihistamine that is used to treat sneezing, runny nose, watery eyes, hives, skin rash, itching, and other cold or allergy symptoms.

Benadryl Allergy is also used to treat [motion sickness](#), to induce sleep, and to treat certain symptoms of [Parkinson's disease](#). **This medicine sleep aid medicine is not for use in children younger than 12 years old.**

There are many brands and forms of [diphenhydramine](#) available. Not all brands are listed on this leaflet.

Benadryl Allergy may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Benadryl Allergy 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.

Benadryl Allergy may cause serious side effects. Stop using Benadryl Allergy and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe [drowsiness](#); or
- painful or difficult urination.

Side effects such as [dry mouth](#), [constipation](#), and confusion may be more likely in older adults.

Common side effects of Benadryl Allergy may include:

- drowsiness;
- dry eyes, blurred vision;
- dry mouth, nose, or throat;

- decreased urination;
- constipation;
- feeling restless or excited (especially in children); or
- day-time drowsiness or "[hangover](#)" feeling after night-time use.

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.

 [Benadryl Allergy side effects](#) (more detail)

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5.6 / 10

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Warnings

Use Benadryl Allergy exactly as directed. **Taking too much Benadryl Allergy can lead to serious heart problems, seizures, coma, or death.**

Do not use this medicine to make a child sleepy. Benadryl Allergy [sleep aid](#) medicine is not for use in children younger than 12 years old.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Benadryl Allergy if you are allergic to it.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if this medicine is safe to use if you have ever had:

- an [enlarged prostate](#) or urination problems;
- asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or other breathing disorder;
- [glaucoma](#); or
- a thyroid disorder.

Ask a doctor before using this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding. Benadryl Allergy may slow breast milk production.

How should I take Benadryl Allergy?

Use exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor. Benadryl Allergy is only for short-term use until your symptoms clear up.

Taking too much Benadryl Allergy can lead to serious heart problems, seizures, coma, or death.

Always follow directions on the medicine label about giving Benadryl Allergy to a child. **Do not use the medicine only to make a child sleepy.** Death can occur from the misuse of [antihistamines](#) in very young children.

For motion sickness, take Benadryl Allergy 30 minutes before you will be in a situation that causes you motion sickness (such as a long car ride, airplane or boat travel, amusement park rides, etc). Continue taking this medicine with meals and at bedtime for the rest of the time you will be in a motion-sickness situation.

As a sleep aid, take Benadryl Allergy within 30 minutes before bedtime.

You must chew the **chewable tablet** before you swallow it.

Measure **liquid medicine** carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Remove an **orally disintegrating tablet** from the package only when you are ready to take the medicine. Place the tablet in your mouth and allow it to dissolve, without chewing. Swallow several times as the tablet dissolves.

Call your doctor if the condition you are treating with Benadryl Allergy does not improve, or if you have a fever with a [headache](#), cough, or skin rash.

Do not use Benadryl Allergy for longer than 2 weeks to treat sleep problems, or longer than 7 days to treat cold or allergy symptoms.

Benadryl Allergy can affect the results of allergy skin tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using Benadryl Allergy.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Benadryl Allergy dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since Benadryl Allergy is used when needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. Skip any missed dose if it's almost time for your next dose. **Do not** use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of diphenhydramine can be fatal.**

Overdose symptoms may include [vomiting](#), confusion, severe drowsiness, ringing in your ears, no urination, very dry eyes and mouth, dilated pupils, fast heartbeats, tremor, [agitation](#), hallucinations, or seizure.

What should I avoid while taking Benadryl Allergy?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how Benadryl Allergy will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of diphenhydramine.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine that may contain Benadryl Allergy. This includes medicines for sleep, cold/allergy symptoms, or anti-itch medicine used on the skin. **Using too much this medicine may lead to a fatal overdose.**

What other drugs will affect Benadryl Allergy?

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before using Benadryl Allergy with any other medicines, especially drugs that can cause drowsiness (such as opioid medication, sleep medicine, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for [anxiety](#) or [seizures](#)). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). **Not all possible interactions are listed here.**

i [Benadryl Allergy drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Benadryl Allergy interact with my other drugs?

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








Benadryl Allergy

+

Enter a drug name

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- [Benadryl Ultratab](#)

Other brands

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Professional resources

- [Benadryl Allergy Ultratab prescribing information](#)
- [DiphenhydrAMINE \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

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Other formulations

- [Benadryl](#)

Related treatment guides

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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](#)


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Benadryl Pediatric Dosage Guide

Use these dosage charts for infants and children under 12 years old:
[Benadryl Dosage Charts \(Infants & Children\)](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability
 Rx and/or OTC

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug



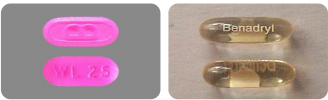
User Reviews & Ratings

7.2 / 10

[30 Reviews](#)

Images

[Benadryl Allergy Ultratab diphenhydramine 25 mg \(B WL 25\)](#)



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