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2. Fluoride

Fluoride topical

Generic name: fluoride topical [*FLOOR-ide-TOP-i-kal*]

Brand names: [ACT Fluoride Rinse](#), [Biotene](#), [Dentagel](#), [Fluorigard](#), [Gel-Kam](#), ... [show all 64 brands](#)

Dosage forms: mucous membrane powder for reconstitution (0.2%), mucous membrane solution (0.2%), topical cream (1.1%), ... [show all 7 dosage forms](#)

Drug class: [Mouth and throat products](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Feb 11, 2025. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is fluoride topical?

[Fluoride](#) topical is used in adults and children at least 6 years old to help prevent [dental](#) cavities and [gum disease](#). Fluoride topical can also help decrease tooth sensitivity and remove plaque bacteria from teeth and gums.

There are many brand forms of fluoride topical available. Not all brands are listed on this leaflet.

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

Fluoride 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.

Call your dentist or doctor if your teeth sensitivity does not improve, or if it gets worse.

Less serious side effects may be more likely, or you may have none at all.

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



[Fluoride topical side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

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Warnings

Use only as directed. Tell your dentist or doctor if you use other medicines or have other medical conditions or allergies.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use fluoride topical if you are allergic to it or any of its ingredients.

Do not use fluoride topical buccal **rinse** if you have [difficulty swallowing](#). Ask your dentist or doctor about other treatment options.

If you are receiving fluoride topical in the clinical setting, tell your dentist or doctor if you have or have ever had ulcerative [gingivitis](#) or [stomatitis](#).

If you are using a certain brand form of prescription fluoride topical, tell your dentist or doctor if you have kidney disease.

Tell your dentist or doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice. **Some brand forms of fluoride topical are not approved for use by anyone younger than 12 years old.**

Do not allow a young child to use fluoride topical without help from an adult.

How should I use fluoride topical?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed. **Do not use this medicine in larger amount or longer than recommended.**

Fluoride topical comes in many different forms (paste, gel, cream, rinse, and others).

Certain formulations of fluoride should be given only in a dentist's office or other clinic setting.

Your dose needs or treatment time may change if you switch to a different brand, strength, or form of this medicine. **Avoid medication errors by using exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your dentist or doctor.**

Read and carefully follow all Instructions for Use on the label of your fluoride topical product. Ask your dentist or

call the product manufacturer if you do not understand these instructions.

Do not take by mouth. Fluoride topical is for use only on your teeth and gums.

Some forms of fluoride topical should not be used as toothpaste for regular brushing, and others can be used like regular toothpaste.

Do not eat, drink, or rinse your mouth for 30 minutes after using fluoride topical. Use fluoride topical preferably at bedtime.

Stop using fluoride topical and call your dentist or doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat. Do not freeze.

Fluoride topical dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Prevention of Dental Caries:

Apply a small amount of fluoride toothpaste to a toothbrush and brush thoroughly on all tooth surfaces for at least one minute.

After use, expectorate.

For best results, do not eat, drink, or rinse for 30 minutes.

Use twice daily as your normal dentifrice or as directed by your dental professional.

Usual Pediatric Dose for Prevention of Dental Caries:

Less than 6 years of age: Do not use unless recommended by a dentist or physician.

Age 6 to 17:

Apply a small amount of fluoride toothpaste to a toothbrush and brush thoroughly on all tooth surfaces for at least one minute.

Expectorate after use and rinse mouth thoroughly.

Use twice daily as your normal dentifrice or as directed by your dental professional.

 [Detailed Fluoride topical dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is 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 if anyone has accidentally swallowed the medicine.

Overdose symptoms may include [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), [diarrhea](#), burning in the mouth, fluorosis, sore tongue, increased salivation, coughing up blood, and stomach pain and cramps.

What should I avoid while using fluoride topical?

Avoid swallowing fluoride topical. Spit it out after use.

Do not use other fluoride topical medicine on the same day of using fluoride topical **kit**. Avoid using oral fluoride medications for at least 4 days after you are treated with fluoride topical **kit**.

What other drugs will affect fluoride topical?

It is unlikely that fluoride topical will interact with other medications. Tell your dentist or doctor about all your current medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

Does fluoride topical interact with my other drugs?

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

fluoride topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

More about fluoride topical

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Patient resources

- [Sodium fluoride advanced reading](#)
- [Sodium Fluoride Cream, Gel, and Paste](#)
- [Sodium Fluoride Rinse](#)

- [Stannous Fluoride Gel](#)
- [Stannous Fluoride Rinse](#)

Other brands

[Biotene](#), [Prevident](#), [Denta 5000 Plus](#), [Dentagel](#), ... +14 more

Professional resources

- [60 Second Fluoride Gel prescribing information](#)
- [Fluoride Foam \(FDA\)](#)
- [Sodium Fluoride Dental Cream \(FDA\)](#)
- [Sodium Fluoride Dental Gel \(FDA\)](#)
- [Sodium Fluoride Paste \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Denta 5000 Plus](#), [Dentagel](#), [Prevident 5000 Plus](#), [Clinpro 5000](#), ... +38 more

Related treatment guides

- [Prevention of Dental Caries](#)

Further information

- Your dentist, doctor, or pharmacist can provide more information about fluoride topical.


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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DRUG STATUS

Availability
 Rx and/or OTC

Pregnancy & Lactation
 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*
N/A Not a controlled drug



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Images

Ethedent (Chewable) 0.5 mg (433 ETH)

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