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2. Milk of Magnesia

# Milk of Magnesia

**Generic name:** [magnesium hydroxide](#) [ mag-NEE-see-um-hye-DROCK-side ]

**Brand names:** Dulcolax Liquid, Milk of Magnesia, Pedia-Lax Chewable, Phillips Milk of Magnesia, [Ex-Lax Milk of Magnesia](#)

**Drug classes:** [Antacids](#), [Laxatives](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 11, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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## What is Milk of Magnesia?

Magnesium is a naturally occurring mineral. Milk of Magnesia reduces stomach acid, and increases water in the intestines which may induce bowel movements.

Milk of Magnesia is used as a laxative to relieve occasional [constipation](#).

Milk of Magnesia is also used as an antacid to relieve indigestion, sour stomach, and [heartburn](#).

Milk of Magnesia may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Milk of Magnesia 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.

**Milk of Magnesia may cause serious side effects. Stop using Milk of Magnesia and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- severe [nausea](#), [vomiting](#), or [diarrhea](#);
- no bowel movement after using the medicine as a laxative;
- rectal bleeding; or
- worsening symptoms.

**Common side effects of Milk of Magnesia may include:**

- diarrhea; or
- a decreased sense of taste.

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

### MiraLAX

MiraLAX (polyethylene glycol) is used as a laxative to treat occasional constipation or irregular ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

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### Colace

Colace makes bowel movements softer and is used to treat or prevent constipation. Includes Colace ...

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Pepcid is used to treat ulcers in the stomach and for conditions where the stomach produces too ...

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## Linzess

Linzess (linaclotide) is used to treat chronic idiopathic constipation, irritable bowel syndrome ...

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Ranitidine is used to treat and prevent ulcers in the stomach and intestines. Includes ranitidine ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.2 / 10

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## Prilosec

Prilosec (omeprazole) is used to treat symptoms of GERD and other conditions caused by excess ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[53 Reviews](#)

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## Warnings

**Do not use Milk of Magnesia without a doctor's advice if you have stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting.**

## Before taking this medicine

**Do not use Milk of Magnesia without a doctor's advice if you have stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting.**

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if Milk of Magnesia is safe to use if:

- you have kidney disease;

- you are on a low-magnesium diet; or
- you have a sudden change in bowel habits that has been ongoing for longer than 2 weeks.

**Ask a doctor before using this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.**

## How should I take Milk of Magnesia?

Use exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor.

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

You may need to shake the **oral suspension** before each use.

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

Take this medicine with a full glass (8 ounces) of water.

When taken as a laxative, Milk of Magnesia should produce a bowel movement within 30 minutes to 6 hours.

Call your doctor if the condition you are treating with Milk of Magnesia does not improve, or if it gets worse while using this medicine.

**Do not use Milk of Magnesia for longer than 7 days without medical advice.**

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Milk of Magnesia dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since Milk of Magnesia 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.

Overdose symptoms may include severe diarrhea, muscle weakness, [shortness of breath](#), and little or no urination.

## What should I avoid while taking Milk of Magnesia?

Follow your doctor's instructions about any restrictions on food, beverages, or activity.

## What other drugs will affect Milk of Magnesia?

Other drugs may affect Milk of Magnesia, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Milk of Magnesia drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does Milk of Magnesia interact with my other drugs?

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

Milk of Magnesia

+

Enter a drug name

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## Frequently asked questions

- [How often can you give a 4-year-old Milk of Magnesia?](#)

## More about Milk of Magnesia (magnesium hydroxide)

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Phillips' Milk of Magnesia](#), [Pedia-Lax Chewable Tablets](#), [Ex-Lax Milk of Magnesia](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Constipation](#)
- [Indigestion](#)
- [Acne](#)

## 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.

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### DRUG STATUS

**Availability**  
 Rx and/or OTC

**Pregnancy & Lactation**  
 Risk data available

**CSA Schedule\***  
**N/A** Not a controlled drug



### User Reviews & Ratings

8.6 / 10

[51 Reviews](#)

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