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2. Emollients

# Topical emollients

**Generic name:** topical emollients [ *TOP-i-kal-ee-MOL-i-ents* ]

**Brand names:** AlphaSoft, Aquaphor, Aveeno, Baby Lotion, Baby Oil, ... [show all 633 brands](#)

**Dosage forms:** topical cream (-), topical emulsion (-), topical foam (-), topical gel (-), topical kit (-), ... [show all 14 dosage forms](#)

**Drug class:** [Topical emollients](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Dec 2, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#)   [Side effects](#)   [Warnings](#)   [Before taking](#)   [What to avoid](#)   [Interactions](#)

## What are topical emollients?

Emollients are substances that moisten and soften your skin.

Topical (for the skin) emollients are used to treat or prevent dry skin. [Topical emollients](#) are sometimes contained in products that also treat acne, chapped lips, [diaper rash](#), [cold sores](#), or other [minor skin irritation](#).

**There are many brands and forms of topical emollients available and not all are listed on this leaflet.**

Topical emollients may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Topical emollients side effects

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

Stop using the topical emollient and call your doctor if you have severe burning, stinging, redness, or irritation where the product was applied.

Less serious side effects are more likely, and you may have none at all.

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.



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

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## 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 a topical emollient if you are allergic to it. **Topical emollients will not treat or prevent a skin infection.**

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use topical emollients if you have:

- deep wounds or open sores;

- swelling, warmth, redness, oozing, or bleeding;
- large areas of skin irritation;
- any type of [allergy](#); or
- if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

## How should I use topical emollients?

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

Clean the skin where you will apply the topical emollient. It may help to apply this product when your skin is wet or damp. Follow directions on the product label.

Shake the product container if recommended on the label.

Apply a small amount of topical emollient to the affected area and rub in gently.

If you are using a stick, pad, or soap form of topical emollient, follow directions for use on the product label.

Do not use this product over large area of skin. Do not apply a topical emollient to a deep puncture wound or severe burn without medical advice.

If your skin appears white or gray and feels soggy, you may be applying too much topical emollient or using it too often.

Some forms of topical emollient may be flammable and should not be used near high heat or open flame, or applied while you are [smoking](#).

Store as directed away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep the bottle, tube, or other container tightly closed when not in use.

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since this product is used as needed, it does not have a daily dosing schedule. Seek medical advice if your condition does not improve after using a topical emollient.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What should I avoid while taking topical emollients?

Avoid getting topical emollients in your eyes, nose, or mouth. If this does happen, rinse with water.

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Some topical emollients can make your skin more sensitive to sunlight or UV rays.

## What other drugs will affect topical emollients?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied emollients. But many drugs can interact with each other. Tell each of your health care providers about all medicines you use, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#).

## Does emollients topical interact with my other drugs?

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

emollients topical

+

Enter a drug name

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## Patient resources

- [Emollient Cream, Emulsion, Gel, Lotion, and Ointment patient information](#)
- [Emollient Foam](#)
- [Emollient Foam and Wound Dressing Gel Kit](#)

## Other brands

[CeraVe](#), [Biafine](#), [EpiCeram](#), [K-Y Jelly](#), ... [+15 more](#)

## Professional resources

### Other brands

[Green Soap](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Dry Skin](#)
- [Vaginal Dryness](#)

## 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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**DRUG STATUS**

	<b>Availability</b>
<div>Rx OTC</div>	Rx and/or OTC
	<b>CSA Schedule*</b>
N/A	Not a controlled drug



**User Reviews & Ratings**

3.8 / 10

[575 Reviews](#)

**Images**

[CeraVe Moisturizing Cream \(emollients\)](#) contains ceramides, dimethicone, hyaluronic acid and petrolatum



[View larger images](#)

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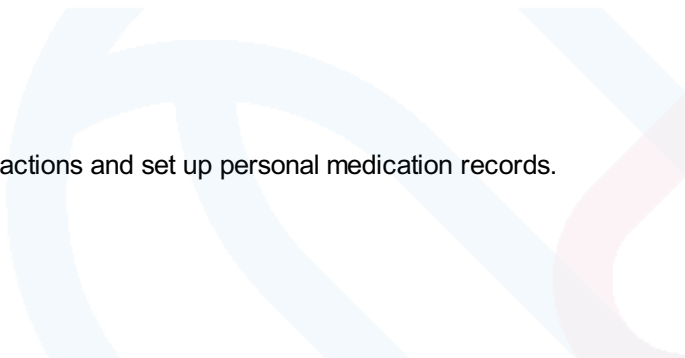


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