

[Home](#)

2. Calamine

## Calamine (topical)

**Generic name:** calamine (topical) [ *KAL-a-mine* ]**Brand names:** Calamine Plain topical, [Calamine Plain](#)**Dosage form:** topical lotion (-)**Drug class:** [Miscellaneous topical agents](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 14, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [What to avoid](#) [Interactions](#)

### What is calamine?

Calamine is an anti-itch medicine that works by causing a cooling sensation as it evaporates on your skin. Calamine also dries oozing or weeping from [minor skin irritation](#).

Calamine topical (for the skin) is used to treat [itching](#) and skin irritation caused by [chickenpox](#), [insect bites](#) or stings, [measles](#), [eczema](#), [sunburn](#), [poison ivy](#), and other [minor skin conditions](#).

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

### Calamine 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.

**Calamine may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:**

- redness, [rash](#), pus, or other signs of [infection](#).

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.

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

### Related/similar drugs

#### Benadryl

Benadryl is an antihistamine and is used to treat sneezing, runny nose, itching and other ...

## Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[79 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Vistaril

Vistaril (hydroxyzine) is used as a sedative to treat anxiety and tension and to treat allergic ...

## Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[232 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## FEATURED

## Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

## Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Atarax

Atarax (hydroxyzine) is used to treat anxiety disorders and allergic skin conditions. Includes ...

## Reviews & ratings

6.3 / 10

[145 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Lidoderm

Lidoderm is a lidocaine patch used to relieve nerve pain after shingles by numbing the skin and ...

## Reviews & ratings

4.1 / 10

[88 Reviews](#)

[89 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Hydrocortisone topical

Hydrocortisone cream is used to treat eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis, hemorrhoids, insect bites or ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[63 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Diphenhydramine

Diphenhydramine is an antihistamine used to treat sneezing, runny nose, itching, hives and other ...

#### Reviews & ratings

5.5 / 10

[541 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 calamine topical if you are allergic to it.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use calamine if you have other medical conditions, especially any allergies.

It is not known whether calamine topical will harm an unborn baby. **Do not use this medicine without a doctor's advice if you are pregnant.**

It is not known whether calamine topical passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. **Do not use this medicine without a doctor's advice if you are breast-feeding a baby.**

## How should I use calamine?

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.

Before you apply calamine topical, wash the skin with soap and water. Allow the skin to dry completely.

Shake the calamine lotion well just before each use.

Apply calamine topical directly to the skin and rub in gently, allowing it to dry on your skin. You may also use a cotton ball to smooth the medicine onto your skin.

Wash your hands with soap and water after applying the medicine.

Calamine lotion may leave a thin film on the skin as it dries. You may cover the treated area with loose clothing, but calamine can stain fabrics it comes in contact with.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 7 days of treatment, or if your symptoms clear up and then come back.

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

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since calamine is used when needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. If you are on a schedule, apply 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 calamine 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 calamine?

Do not take by mouth. Calamine topical is for use only on the skin. **If calamine gets in your eyes, nose, mouth, rectum, or vagina, rinse with water.**

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

## What other drugs will affect calamine?

It is not likely that other drugs you take orally or inject will have an effect on topically applied calamine. 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 calamine topical interact with my other drugs?

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

calamine topical

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## More about calamine topical

- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(4\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Drug class: miscellaneous topical agents](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

- [Calamine advanced reading](#)

## Other brands

[Calamine Plain](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Pruritus](#)

## 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: 4.01.

### DRUG STATUS

#### Availability

**OTC** Over the counter

#### CSA Schedule\*

**N/A** Not a controlled drug



## User Reviews & Ratings

[4 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.



Ad Choices  
ADVERTISEMENT



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