

# Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) basics

**Helps prevent infection in minor cuts, scrapes, and burns.** Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) is an effective, over-the-counter, first-line infection prevention in minor scrapes, cuts, and burns.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Redness of the skin</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Skin itching</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Local swelling of the skin</b>	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Skin irritation</b>	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Make sure you clean the affected area and dry well before applying Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin).
- Wash your hands before and after use.
- Place a thin layer of Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) on the affected area 1 to 3 times daily. You can gently rub in the product.
- You should put a bandaid or dressing over the affected area to prevent further irritation or bacteria.
- Do not use Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) if it is expired.
- If your wound does not stop bleeding, seek medical attention.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Allergic reaction

Do not use Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) if you are allergic to any of these ingredients: bacitracin, neomycin, and polymyxin B. Stop using and talk to a doctor if you experience rashes, hives, or other allergic reactions.

### Use in serious wounds

Unless directed by a doctor, you should only use Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) on minor cuts, scrapes, and burns. Speak to your doctor before using if you have serious burns, large or deep wounds, or animal bites.

### Long-term use

You should not use Neosporin (neomycin / polymyxin / bacitracin) for more than a week. Stop using and speak to your doctor if your wound does not get better or gets worse after 1 week. You may need a stronger medicine.