

Anusol[®] Soothing Relief ointment

Hydrocortisone acetate, Zinc oxide, Bismuth oxide, Bismuth subgallate, Balsam Peru, Benzyl benzoate

- This medicine is used for the relief of uncomplicated internal and external piles and anal itching.
- This medicine is for use in adults over the age of 18 years.
- **Do not use this medicine:**
 - If you have had a **bad reaction** to Anusol or any of the ingredients in it. See section 6 ▶
 - If you have **fungal, viral or bacterial skin sores**. See section 2 ▶
- **Speak to your doctor:**
 - If you have **rectal bleeding** which has not been diagnosed as piles. See section 2 ▶
 - If your symptoms have worsened or not improved within 7 days of using this product.
 - If you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
 - If you are under 18 years of age. See section 2 ▶
- **Follow the instructions on how to use this product carefully.** See Section 3 ▶

Now read this whole leaflet carefully before you use this medicine. Keep the leaflet: you might need it again.

1 What the medicine is for

Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment is a medicine which is used to reduce the symptoms of internal and external piles (haemorrhoids). It contains the following ingredients:

Hydrocortisone acetate is a mild steroid which helps reduce inflammation.

Zinc oxide and **bismuth salts** are mildly astringent and antiseptic and soothe and protect raw areas.

Balsam Peru is mildly antiseptic and has a protective action on sore areas and may help healing.

Benzyl benzoate has mild antiseptic properties.

This medicine helps relieve the pain, swelling, itch and irritation of internal and external piles (haemorrhoids) and other related conditions, such as anal itching. This product is for use by adults over the age of 18 years.

2 Before using this medicine

This medicine is suitable for most people but a few people should not use it. If you are in any doubt, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

⚠ Do not use this medicine...

- If you have ever had a **bad reaction** to Anusol or any of its ingredients.
- **Do not use** on broken or infected skin. Common skin infections include anal warts, genital herpes, thrush and jock itch.
- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- If you are under 18 years of age.

If any of these applies, **get advice from a doctor or pharmacist without using Anusol.**

⚠ Talk to your doctor or pharmacist...

- If you have **rectal bleeding** or if you are in doubt whether any bleeding you have experienced is caused by piles.
- If symptoms worsen or do not improve after you have used the medicine for 7 days.
- If you are taking or using any **other medicines** including:
 - **corticosteroids** (a type of anti-inflammatory medicine), e.g. betamethasone or hydrocortisone (used in eczema and dermatitis), dexamethasone, prednisolone.

If you are not sure about the medicine you are using then talk to your pharmacist or doctor for advice.

If any of these bullet points apply to you now or in the past, **talk to a doctor or pharmacist.**

⚠ If you are pregnant or breast-feeding

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding do not use this medicine.

⚠ Some of the ingredients can cause problems

- Castor oil may cause skin reactions.
- Lanolin anhydrous may cause local skin reactions e.g. contact dermatitis which is a local irritation at the site of use.

3 How to use this medicine

Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment is for topical use only, which means it is applied directly to the affected area.

- Wash the anal area and dry gently with a soft towel before using the medicine.
- There is a nozzle supplied with the product which can be used to apply the ointment into the back passage (anus).
- **For external piles** - after washing and drying the affected area, the ointment should be applied using a gauze dressing.
- **For internal piles** - after washing and drying the affected area, screw the nozzle provided onto the tube, remove the nozzle cap; insert the nozzle into the back passage and squeeze gently. Clean the nozzle after each use.
- Wash your hands before and after using Anusol.

i Children (under 18 years):

This medicine is not for use in children under 18 years of age.

i Adults and the elderly:

Age	Dose
Adults and the elderly	Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment can be applied sparingly to the affected area at night, in the morning and after each bowel movement

- Do not use more than 4 times a day.
- Do not use for more than 7 consecutive days.

⚠ If anyone has swallowed this product

If anyone accidentally swallows Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment, contact a doctor or your nearest Accident and Emergency department (Casualty), taking this leaflet and pack with you.

⚠ If you forget to use the medicine

Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment should be used on an

as required basis. However, if you are unable to use this product when needed, **do not** take a double dose next time you use it.

4 Possible side-effects

Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment can have side-effects, like all medicines, although these don't affect everyone and are usually mild.

If you experience the following, stop using the medicine and tell your doctor:

- Sensitivity reactions (such as a rash) which occur rarely.

Other effects which may occur include

- Mild irritation or burning when applying the ointment. This does not usually last a long time, so if this becomes troublesome or lasts longer than a few days, tell your doctor.

The above are mild side-effects which will usually stop when you stop using the ointment.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 Storing this medicine

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not store above 25°C.

Do not use your medicine after the date shown as an expiry date on the packaging.

6 Further information

What's in this medicine?

The active substances are per 100 g:

Hydrocortisone acetate 0.25 g, Zinc oxide 10.75 g, Bismuth subgallate 2.25 g, Balsam Peru 1.875 g, Bismuth oxide 0.875 g and Benzyl benzoate 1.25 g.

Other ingredients are: Magnesium stearate, cocoa butter, lanolin anhydrous, castor oil, kaolin light, calcium hydrogen phosphate and petroleum jelly white.

What the medicine looks like

Anusol Soothing Relief Ointment is a whitish ointment available in 15 g tubes.

Product Licence holder: McNeil Products Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3UG, UK.

Manufacturer: Famar Orléans, 5 avenue de Concy, 45071 Orléans, Cedex 2, France.

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Anusol is a registered trade mark.

7 A Healthy Living Plan for Piles Sufferers

What are piles?

Piles (haemorrhoids) are swollen blood vessels which occur inside or outside the back passage (anus).

Symptoms

Some people have piles without experiencing any symptoms, but sufferers may notice the following:

- **Bleeding:** Although streaks of bright red blood on the toilet paper are not uncommon in people with piles, it may be sign of a more serious condition and you should see your doctor to check this.
- **Swelling:** The swollen blood vessels may be felt as a lump or blockage in the anus.
- **Pain, itching and irritation** in the anal region.

At least 40% of people suffer from piles at some time in their lives. However, many people are too embarrassed to seek advice or treatment and, as a result, suffer unnecessary discomfort.

Fortunately, there is much you can do to ease the situation and relieve the symptoms.

What causes piles?

A number of factors can contribute to the development of piles:

- The most common cause is straining during bowel movement, usually as a result of constipation.

- During pregnancy, the growing baby exerts increased pressure on the anal vessels, which can lead to piles.
- Heredity: You may be more likely to develop piles if your family has a history of suffering.

Healthy Tips for Piles Sufferers

You can reduce the risk of piles by following a healthy diet and lifestyle that helps to keep your bowels working regularly and prevents constipation. This can also help to speed recovery from piles.

- Eat a high fibre diet including foods like brown rice, wholemeal bread, wholewheat pasta etc.
- Eat plenty of fresh fruit, vegetables and salads.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Don't eat too much salty, fatty or sugary foods such as crisps, burgers and cakes.
- Cut back on the amount of alcohol, tea and coffee you drink.
- Exercise regularly.

A healthy diet and lifestyle will reduce the likelihood of constipation and encourage a regular bowel habit. Go to the toilet regularly and try to avoid straining. Leaning forward from the hips may help.

For external and internal piles, Ointment can be used. If internal haemorrhoids are the problem, Suppositories deliver a measured dose to the affected area.

For further information, please contact:

McNeil Products Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3UG, UK.

