

# Corticosteroid Potency Chart (Topical & Systemic)

<b>Class 1</b> Super Potent	Betamethasone dipropionate (augmented) 0.05%	Diprolene, Diprolene AF	Cream, Ointment, Gel, Lotion
	Clobetasol propionate 0.05%	Temovate, Clobex, Olux, Cormax, Embeline	Cream, Ointment, Gel, Foam, Lotion, Shampoo
	Diflorasone diacetate 0.05%	Psorcon, Apexicon E	Cream, Ointment
	Fluocinonide 0.05%	Lidex	Cream, Ointment, Gel, Solution
	Fluocinonide 0.1%	Lidex-E	Cream
<b>Class 2</b> Potent	Betamethasone dipropionate (augmented) 0.05%	Diprolene AF	Cream (Augmented), Lotion
	Desoximetasone 0.25%	Topicort	Cream, Gel
	Diflorasone diacetate 0.05% (non-augmented)	Maxiflor, generic	Cream, Ointment
	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.2%	Synalar HP	Cream
	Halcinonide 0.1%	Halog	Cream, Ointment, Solution
	Halobetasol propionate 0.05%	Ultravate, Bryhali	Cream, Lotion
<b>Class 3</b> Upper Mid-Strength	Amcinonide 0.1%	Cyclocort (Canada), generic	Cream, Lotion
	Betamethasone valerate 0.1% (ointment)	Luxiq, generic	Ointment
	Desoximetasone 0.05%	Topicort LP	Cream, Ointment
	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025%–0.2%	Synalar	Cream, Solution, Ointment
	Fluticasone propionate 0.005% (ointment)	Cutivate	Ointment
	Halometasone 0.05%	Halovate	Cream, Ointment
	Mometasone furoate 0.1%	Elocon	Ointment
	Triamcinolone acetonide 0.5%	Aristocort A, Kenalog	Cream, Ointment
<b>Class 4</b> Mid-Strength	Clocortolone pivalate 0.1%	Cloderm	Cream
	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.025%	Synalar	Cream, Solution, Ointment
	Flurandrenolide 0.05%	Cordran	Cream, Ointment, Tape
	Hydrocortisone valerate 0.2%	Westcort	Cream, Ointment
	Mometasone furoate 0.1% (cream/lotion)	Elocon	Cream, Lotion
	Triamcinolone acetonide 0.1%	Kenalog, Aristocort A	Cream, Ointment

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<b>Class 5</b> Lower Mid-Strength	Desonide 0.05%	DesOwen, Tridesilon, Verdeso	Cream, Lotion, Gel, Ointment
	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%	Derma-Smoothe/FS, Fluonid	Oil (used for the scalp)
	Fluticasone propionate 0.05%	Cutivate	Cream, Lotion
	Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1%	Locoid	Cream, Ointment, Lotion
	Mometasone furoate 0.1% (cream)	Elocon	Cream
<b>Class 6</b> Mild	Alclometasone dipropionate 0.05%	Aclovate	Cream, Ointment
	Desonide 0.05%	DesOwen, Tridesilon, Verdeso	Cream, Lotion, Gel, Ointment
	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%	Derma-Smoothe/FS	Oil (used for the scalp)
	Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1%	Locoid	Cream, Ointment, Lotion
<b>Class 7</b> Least Potent (Often OTC)	Fluocinolone acetonide 0.01%	Derma-Smoothe/FS	Oil (scalp)
	Hydrocortisone 1%	Cortizone-10, Aveeno HC, Hydrocortisone 1%, Preparation H	Cream, Ointment, Lotion, Gel, Spray
	Hydrocortisone 2.5%	generic, Cortaid 2.5%	Cream, Ointment, Lotion
	Hydrocortisone acetate 1%	Hytone	Cream, Ointment
	Hydrocortisone butyrate 0.1%	Locoid	Cream, Ointment

Corticosteroids, especially topical ones are often classified by potency, which refers to how strong their anti-inflammatory effects are on the skin or tissues. Here's how they're divided by potency, particularly for topical corticosteroids (creams, ointments, lotions):

There are **7 classes** in the U.S., with Class 1 being the most potent and Class 7 the least potent.

- Augmented formulations (e.g., Diprolene) enhance skin penetration, increasing potency.
- Potency can vary between cream, ointment, lotion, or gel forms, even with the same drug.

Even the same steroid can be stronger or weaker depending on its form:

- **Ointments** > Creams > Lotions
- Ointments are more occlusive and penetrate better, making them more potent.
- Use lower-potency steroids for thin-skinned areas (face, groin, axillae, infants).