



What is a Cough?

Although it may not seem like it, a [cough](#) is a **protective action by the body** in healthy individuals. It is an **involuntary reflex** initiated by two classes of nerves with endings in the lungs.

Coughing is an action the body takes to **get rid of substances irritating the air passages**, and a [cough](#) is usually started **to clear a build-up of phlegm** (mucus) in the trachea. When a person coughs, air may move through this passage at up to 300 MPH.

What Causes a Cough?

If an individual is a non-smoker and has a normal chest X-ray, the **most likely causes of a persistent cough** are asthma, heartburn, or post-nasal drip. Other causes of [chronic cough](#) include chronic bronchitis and side effects from certain conventional medications such as ACE inhibitors. A [cough](#) can also be a symptom of an upper respiratory infection or bronchitis, pneumonia, or tuberculosis. **Natural cough remedies may help alleviate the discomfort** associated with bouts of illness-induced coughing.

Individuals who smoke often have what is referred to as a **smoker's cough**, which is a loud, hacking [cough](#) that often results in the expiration of phlegm. It is always advised that individuals **stop smoking in a natural way**, both to alleviate [smoker's cough](#) and live a healthier life. Coughs in children are common, and usually accompany many of the normal childhood illnesses such as flu and bronchitis.

Coughing can also be triggered by food going down the wrong pipe, and when this occurs, the epiglottis has not done its job properly in keeping food out of the trachea.

Help for a Cough

A [cough](#) that **continues for several days or increases in severity** warrants a visit to a physician or health care practitioner to rule out other diseases. If a [cough](#) lasts for more than three weeks, multiple causes are likely, and only when all the causes are treated will the patient be symptom-free.

A **frequent or chronic cough** usually indicates the presence of a disease. Coughs can be conventionally treated with [cough](#) medicines, often through [cough](#) suppressants (antitussives) that suppress the body's urge to [cough](#). This can be less

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than ideal, as your body is built to naturally expel mucus and irritants by way of a [cough](#).

Productive coughs (coughs that produce phlegm) are treated with expectorants that loosen mucus from the respiratory tract. Centrally-acting [cough](#) suppressants reduce the urge to [cough](#) by inhibiting the response of the sensory endings by depolarization of the vagus nerve.

However, it is **always better to promote the body's ability to expel mucus and phlegm** and keep the mucus membranes moist, as dried out mucus membranes can be left susceptible to further infection.

There are many [natural cough remedies](#) available that address various forms of coughs.

Alternative and Complementary Approaches

[Natural cough remedies](#) utilizing herbal and homeopathic ingredients can be used to **address coughing in a gentle yet effective manner**, loosening any phlegm in the lungs, and opening airways without drying out membranes. A combination of certain herbs such as *Hyssopus officinalis* and *Althea officinalis* are known for their ability to **promote respiratory health and soothe the chest**, exerting a soothing effect on mucus membranes.

Natural remedies can be a safe alternative to prescription medications, and a **natural approach will address underlying causes and not just the symptoms**.

Tips for People who Suffer with Chronic Coughing

- Pop a few drops of oil of eucalyptus into a bath or basin of warm water, and breathe in the vapors. The warm, moist air will soothe the airways, loosening sinus congestion and phlegm in the throat and lungs.
- Elevate the head of your bed, as this will allow any mucus in the back of the throat to drain backwards and prevent any bothersome tickles in the throat.
- Stop smoking, as this is the best way to prevent a [smoker's cough](#).
- Keep all carpets vacuumed and clean bedding regularly to prevent coughs associated with environmental triggers and allergens.
- If your [cough](#) is due to an illness, drink 8 glasses of water per day (which should be done on a daily basis, [cough](#) or not!). Water is a fabulous expectorant - and will help thin the mucus and 'loosen' the [cough](#).
- During the winter, if your house is dry, use a humidifier and a cool-mist vaporizer in your bedroom at night. This will help to thin the mucus in your lungs. However, be sure to thoroughly clean the vaporizer regularly, as it can harbor bacteria!
- Sucking on sweets will help stop the tickle if you have a dry [cough](#) and will moisten the throat. Herbal teas can also be soothing and delicious.
- Avoid foods that increase the production of mucus, such as dairy products, meat and fried foods.
- Hot packs placed on your throat and chest can also be very soothing.
- Having a chest rub with essential oils will also help to loosen the chest. Inhaling the vapors of the essential oils of lavender, eucalyptus or other



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Michele Carelse, Clinical Psychologist



All of our natural remedies are formulated by our expert team of herbalists, naturopaths and homeopaths, and headed by Michele Carelse.

Michele has had years of experience in the manufacturing and use of natural remedies. In addition, she is a trained Clinical Psychologist and has been incorporating natural remedies into her treatment of patients with depression, anxiety, ADD, ADHD and stress for many years with spectacular results.

expectorant oils in addition to a warm bath can also be very helpful, especially just before bedtime.

The Natural Approach

While Western medicine has become the norm in many cultures, it is **not the only treatment option**. Conventional Western medicine (often called allopathic or orthodox medicine) is the system of medicine taught at most medical schools, and many pharmaceutical and synthetic medicines are manufactured and marketed according to the principles of allopathic medicine.

Because most of us in the Western world have grown up in a society in which allopathic medicine is the prevailing norm, we forget that only a few decades ago, homeopathic, herbal and other natural medicines were commonly available and freely used-- even by conventional doctors. While there are often heated debates about which system of medicine is 'better' than the other, many responsible doctors (whether they are allopathic or not) recognize that **both have a role to play in the treatment program**.

Natural medicine has often been frowned upon by conventional doctors, especially by those who do not have sufficient knowledge of these medicines. However, it is encouraging to note that some medical schools are now beginning to re-introduce it into their course work, thereby **providing doctors with a wider range of treatment options** from which to choose. In many countries, especially in Europe, India and China, **natural and homeopathic medicines are commonly prescribed** by conventional doctors and represent a significant part of the total annual drug sales.

Naturopathy is a branch of medicine (just as allopathy is a branch of medicine) which operates according to the underlying philosophy that the **body has an innate capacity to heal itself**. While natural medicines are often called 'alternative' or 'complimentary' medicines, they are, in fact, a **unique and independent form of medicine** in their own right, well able to **treat a variety of conditions**. Perhaps the term 'holistic' medicine is more apt, given the broad range of treatment options and approaches which are to be found within the practice of natural medicine. This encompasses many different disciplines, including herbalism, homeopathy, iridology, osteopathy, chiropractic, therapeutic massage techniques, aromatherapy, acupuncture and many, many more.

Most naturopaths will use a variety of treatment modalities in order to treat their patients in a **holistic way to support health, relieve symptoms and prevent future disease**. In fact, even the World Health Organization defines health as being "... more than simply the absence of illness. It is the active state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being." This is a wonderfully clear description of holistic or natural medicine, which strives to **support health** (thereby relieving or preventing symptoms), rather than simply eliminating disease.

Although allopathic medicine certainly has a role to play and has made a tremendous contribution to medical science during the past century, there is a growing perception that it is not the only answer. In many cases, **holistic medicine can accomplish just as much**, if not more – without the risk of side effects, addiction and sacrifice to health so commonly associated with pharmaceutical drugs. Contrary to common perception, and provided that they are

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manufactured in the correct way, **natural medicines can work quickly and safely to promote healing.**

In many cases, they can **succeed where pharmaceutical drugs have failed.** Despite frequent reports that they are ‘unproven’ and ‘untested’, the opposite is true. Natural medicines have a **long history of usage** and there is a **wealth of empirical evidence** to support their effectiveness and safety. In addition, active clinical research is carried out by many academic hospitals and universities to **support the extensive traditional and empirical evidence behind natural medicines.**

It is also important to know that, like any medicine, herbal and homeopathic medicines **must be manufactured in the correct way**, following acceptable procedures and manufacturing methods to ensure maximum effectiveness and safety. Due to the recent rise in popularity of natural remedies, many companies have sprung up to take advantage of the market. Unfortunately, **not all of them are equipped to manufacture to the correct standards**, often resulting in a flood of inferior (and sometimes even unsafe) remedies onto the market – and giving natural remedies a bad name.

Even some pharmaceutical companies have rushed to claim their market share by producing so-called ‘standardized’ extracts of herbs and offering these as superior to the tried and tested methods of naturopathic manufacturing. Nothing could be further from the truth. While **‘standardized’ extracts** may offer benefit of easy consistency of dosage (and cheaper more efficient production lines), they have **grave disadvantages**, including an increase in side effects, as the medicines produced in this manner lose the natural protective properties of the herbs. In some cases, these side effects have proved fatal – as was seen in the liver toxicity associated with standardized extracts of kava kava, a herb previously safely used for generations without any known side effects.

Most naturopaths recommend what is called the Full Spectrum Method of extraction – which **retains the benefits of ALL the active ingredients within the herb** as opposed to isolating only one – thereby providing a more complete treatment as well as superior protection against side effects.

Whatever your choice, **always choose wisely.** Research what is best for you. If you have a chronic or life-threatening condition, don’t make changes without first discussing them with your doctor, in order that your condition may be monitored. **Well-informed and supportive practitioners will support patients** who want to take responsibility for their own health.

Related Natural Remedies:

ComfiCoff: Promotes relaxation to soothe throat and chest discomfort, irritation and congestion.

ComfiCoff is a 100% safe and natural remedy containing herbal ingredients. These ingredients are combined in a syrup base to **provide rapid and effective support for the throat and chest** in children and adults, **promoting clear and open airways.**

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researched and have been specially chosen for their high safety profile. ComfiCoff can therefore be **safely used to help both children and adults, without any unwanted side effects.**

The formula remains true to the **whole spectrum method** of herbal extraction, ensuring the bio-availability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly reduces the likelihood of side effects and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

[Learn more about ComfiCoff](#)

Throat and Tonsil Dr.: Soothes & supports the throat while promoting tonsil health and immune functioning.

Throat and Tonsil Dr. is a unique, 100% natural blend of herbal ingredients chosen for their ability to **promote throat tissue health**, soothe the throat and related organs such as the tonsils, as well as promote health in the lymphatic system.

Throat and Tonsil Dr. supports the body's natural ability to resist and fight infection. It also supports the **healthy functioning of the throat, tonsils, and immune system**, thereby helping to maintain the natural defense against pathogens and maintain optimum performance.

Throat and Tonsil Dr. can benefit those individuals needing to support routine immune strength to guard against common conditions associated with childhood. In young, developing immune systems (such as in childhood) the throat and tonsils may be especially vulnerable, so measures to **promote tonsil health** are essential.

Throat and Tonsil Dr. can be used when needed, without compromising health and **without the risk of serious side effects.**

[Learn more about Throat and Tonsil Dr.](#)

Immunity Plus: For full immune system support for adults and teens.

ImmunityPlus is a 100% safe, non-addictive natural herbal remedy formulated to safely maintain the **health and systemic balance of the immune system**, without harmful side effects and stimulants.

ImmunityPlus contains a selection of herbs known for their supportive function in maintaining immune system health and well-being. It supports the healthy functioning of the immune system, thereby helping to maintain the **natural defense against pathogens** and optimum performance.

As we grow older, we sometimes begin to notice that our immune systems are not as good as they used to be. ImmunityPlus can especially benefit those individuals needing to support routine immune strength to **guard against common conditions associated with the maturing of cells.**

ImmunityPlus can be used consistently, without compromising health or **causing serious side effects**, to help maintain the body's natural ability to fight viral and

herbal & homeopathic remedies:

1) All Native Remedies products are manufactured according to the highest pharmaceutical standards - using only the best quality raw ingredients from nature's medicine chest.

2) Native Remedies and our suppliers are registered with the FDA as accredited suppliers and manufacturers of health supplements. Our products are sold all over the world and are manufactured to strict international standards in a GMP accredited manufacturing plant.

3) All our remedies are manufactured in an FDA registered pharmaceutical facility under close supervision.

This includes formulation, acquiring and testing of raw ingredients as well as final manufacturing. This gives us the confidence to say that when you are buying a Native Remedies product, you are buying the safest and the best! We know what goes into our remedies - which is why we know what you will get out of them!

4) Manufacturing is done strictly according to the principles of GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) and all raw ingredients undergo stringent testing before being approved by our registered manufacturing pharmacists.

5) We offer a free email [Ask Our Experts](#) service run by trained consultants ready to advise you on the best choice for your health.

6) We offer an unconditional [One Year Money Back Guarantee](#).

bacterial infections-- while also supporting healthy convalescence.

The formula remains true to the **whole spectrum method** of herbal extraction, ensuring the bioavailability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly reduces the likelihood of side effects and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

[Learn more about Immunity Plus](#)

KiddieBoost: Support healthy immune functioning in children.

KiddieBoost is a 100% safe and natural formula containing carefully selected herbal ingredients known for their **tonic effects on the immune system**, as well as their high safety profile in children's remedies, compared to possibly harsh antibiotic side effects in children.

When children attend school, daycare, or preschool, they are particularly prone to picking up viruses and bugs. To help protect their immune systems, KiddieBoost has been specifically formulated to **strengthen child's immune system** from the age of 12 months. KiddieBoost comes in a convenient drop formula that is easy to administer to children.

KiddieBoost is developed with care by our team of specialists, is 100% natural, and manufactured according to the highest pharmaceutical standards using the **whole spectrum method** of herbal extraction.

This method ensures the bioavailability and balance of all the active ingredients contained in the remedy. This method of manufacture also significantly **reduces the likelihood of side effects** and maintains all active ingredients in perfect balance – exactly as nature intended!

[Learn more about KiddieBoost](#)

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