

COMMON (AND DANGEROUS) ALCOHOL/DRUG COMBINATIONS

Many drugs, even over-the-counter medications, can interact dangerously with alcohol, leading to increased risk of illness, injury, or death. The following chart illustrates some of the potentially fatal effects of some common alcohol/drug combinations.

Drug Class	Trade Name(s)	Effects with Alcohol
Anti-alcohol	Antabuse	Severe reactions to even small amounts: headache, nausea, convulsions, coma, death
Antibiotics	Penicillin, Cyantin	Reduction in the drugs' therapeutic effectiveness
Antidepressants	Elavil, Prozac, Tofranil, Nardil	Increased central nervous system (CNS) depression and blood pressure changes. Combination use of alcohol with MAO inhibitors can trigger massive increase in blood pressure, resulting in brain hemorrhage and death.
Antihistamines	Allerest, Dristan	Drowsiness and depression of the central nervous system (CNS). Impairment of driving ability.
Aspirin	Anacin, Excedrin	Intensification of alcohol's effects. Irritation of stomach lining. May cause gastrointestinal pain, bleeding.
Depressants	Valium, Ativan, Xanax	Dangerous CNS depression, loss of coordination, coma. High risk of overdose and death.
Narcotics	heroin, codeine, Darvon	Serious CNS depression. Possible respiratory arrest and death.
Stimulants	amphetamine, cocaine	Masking of the depressant action of alcohol. Possible increase in both blood pressure and physiological tension. Increased risk of overdose.

Have you ever intentionally or accidentally mixed alcohol with any of these other drugs?

Yes No

Have you ever witnessed a friend or family member do it?

Yes No

If so, what was the reaction? _____
