

# Newborn Urine - Pink or Brick Dust Color

## Definition

- A pink or peach color to the urine found in some normal newborns
- It stays on the surface of the diaper and looks like a powder or brick-dust

## Health Information

### Cause

- The color is due to urate (uric acid) crystals, not red blood cells.
- Urate crystals dry on the surface of the diaper. Once dry, they can be scraped off. They feel like a powder.
- Blood in the urine is different. It soaks into the diaper.
- High urate levels in the urine can be normal during the first week of life. They are seen more with mild dehydration from poor fluid intake. More common while breastmilk is coming in.

## Care Advice

### 1. Overview:

- Normal newborns may have a pink or peach color to the urine for a few days. It looks like powder or dust.
- The color is due to urate crystals, not blood.
- The problem is made worse by not drinking enough breastmilk or formula. Hot weather can also be a factor.
- The passage of urate crystals is harmless.

### 2. Increase Fluids:

- Increase fluid intake.
- For formula-fed newborns, increase the amount and frequency of feedings.
- For breast-fed newborns, nurse more frequently (every 1 ½ to 2 hours).
- Supplements. If your baby is very hungry after breastfeeding, you can supplement for 24 hours. Offer 1 ounce of formula or expressed breastmilk by bottle after every other breastfeeding.

### 3. Expected Course:

- In general, pink urine from urates only occurs 1 or 2 times.
- It should not occur after the first week of life.

## Call Your Doctor If

---

- Pink urine occurs 3 or more times
- You need to supplement with formula
- Your newborn starts to act sick
- Occurs again after 7 days of age

### **Pediatric Care Advice**

**Author:** Barton Schmitt MD, FAAP

**Copyright 2000-2022** Schmitt Pediatric Guidelines LLC

**Disclaimer:** This health information is for educational purposes only. You the reader assume full responsibility for how you choose to use it. The information contained in this handout should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. Listing of any resources does not imply an endorsement.