

Priming and Care Guide for Respiratory Inhalers

Medication	Rescue / Maintenance	What it does	Priming	Cleaning	When to discard
Aerospan	Maintenance	Prevents Swelling	New & if not used for 14 days: 2 test sprays	No cleaning recommended	Count doses
Atrovent	Rescue	Prevents constriction	New & if not used for 3 days: 2 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Advair Diskus	Maintenance	Prevents swelling & constriction	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	Built in counter. Numbers turn red when 5 doses left.
Advair MDI	Maintenance	Prevents swelling & constriction	New: 4 test sprays. When not used in 4 wks or if dropped: 2 test sprays	Clean spray hole with a dry cotton swab. Gently twist swab to remove any medication. Wipe mouthpiece with damp tissue & allow to dry. Don't remove canister from actuator.	Built in counter.
Alvesco	Maintenance	Prevents swelling.	New & if not used in 10 days: 3 test sprays, don't shake.	Clean mouthpiece with clean, dry tissue weekly.	Dose indicator.
Asmanex	Maintenance	Prevents swelling.	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	Built in counter, cannot remove cap when empty.
Dulera MDI	Maintenance	Prevents swelling.	Release 4 test sprays into the air; shake well before each spray. Must be reprimed if not used for >5 days.	Clean by using a dry wipe after every 7 days of use.	Discard inhaler after the labeled number of inhalations have been used.
Flovent Diskus	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	Built in counter, numbers turn red when 5 doses left.
Flovent MDI	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	New: 4 test sprays. When not used in 7 days or if dropped: 1 spray	Clean spray hole with a damp cotton swab, repeat with dry cotton swab. Wipe mouthpiece with damp tissue & allow to dry. Don't remove canister from actuator.	Built in counter
Foradil	Maintenance; WARNING-not to be used without inhaled corticosteroid or could lead to death	Prevents constriction	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	When capsules are gone-get new prescription/device.
ProAir	Rescue	Opens airways	New and if not used in 2 wks: 3 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Built in counter. Discard when the dose counter displays 0 or after the expiration date on the product, whichever comes first.
Proventil	Rescue	Opens airways	New and if not used in 2 wks: 4 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Pulmicort	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	New: Hold upright, twist & click brown grip two times.	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	Built in counter.
QVAR	Maintenance	Prevents swelling	New and if not used in 10 days: 2 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Serevent	Maintenance; WARNING-not to be used without inhaled corticosteroid or could lead to death	Prevents constriction	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth.	Built in counter: Numbers turn red when 5 doses left.
Symbicort	Maintenance	Prevents swelling & constriction	New & if not used in 7 days or dropped: 2 test sprays	Wipe inside and outside of mouthpiece with clean, dry cloth. Do not take inhaler apart.	Built in counter. Disgard 3 months after taken out of foil pouch.
Ventolin	Rescue	Opens airways	New & if not used in 2 wks. Or if dropped: 4 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Dose counter. Disgard 6 months after taken out of foil pouch.
Xopenex	Rescue	Opens airways	New & if not used in 3 days: 4 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly with warm,running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses