

Priming and Care Guide for Asthma Inhalational Devices

Medication	Type	Priming	Cleaning	How to know when to discard
Atrovent™	HFA, MDI	New and not used for 3 days: 2 test sprays away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm, running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Advair™	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left
Advair™	HFA, MDI	New: 4 test sprays away from face shaking well for 5 seconds before each spray. If not used for more than 4 weeks or if dropped; shake for 5 seconds, spray twice into the air.	Remove mouthpiece cap. Clean circular opening where medication comes from with dry cotton swab. Gently twist swab to remove any medicine. Wipe inside of mouthpiece with damp tissue and allow to dry. Do not remove canister from actuator.	Count doses
Asmanex™	Twisthaler, DPI	No Priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter; cannot remove cap when empty
Azmacort™	CFC, MDI	New and when not used for 3 days: 2 test sprays away from face	At least once per week, clean sleeve and spacer with warm, running water. Shake and dry completely	Count doses
Combivent™	CFC, MDI	New and when not used for 24 hours: Shake vigorously for 10 seconds; release 3 test sprays away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm, running water; allow to completely dry before using	Count doses
Flovent™	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left
Flovent™	HFA, MDI	New: 4 test sprays away from face shaking well for 5 seconds before each spray. Not used for more than 7 days or if dropped: shake well for 5 seconds before each spray and release 1 test spray	Remove mouthpiece cap. Clean circular opening where medication comes from with cotton swab dampened with water. Gently twist swab to remove any medicine; repeat with a clean, damp swab to remove any medicine still at the opening. Wipe inside of mouthpiece with damp tissue and allow to dry. Do not remove canister from actuator.	Built in counter

Maxair™	Breath Actuated, MDI	New and not used for 48 hours: Push lever up. Push white test fire slide on bottom of the mouthpiece in direction of arrow to release a spray away from face. Return lever to down position. Repeat this once.	At least once per week: Remove cover. Turn autohaler upside down. Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth. Visualize spray hole by tapping back of inhaler. Clean surface of the flap and spray hole with dry cotton swab.	Count doses
Proair™	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 2 weeks: 3 test sprays into air away from face	Clean sleeve weekly with warm water, shake, allow to dry before using	Count doses.
Proventil™	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 2 weeks: 4 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses
Pulmicort™	Flexhaler, DPI	When new only: Hold upright, twist and click brown grip at bottom two times.	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter
Pulmicort™	Turbuhaler, DPI	When new only: Hold upright, twist and click brown grip at bottom two times.	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	No counter, but indicator turns red when 20 doses left
Qvar™	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 10 days: 2 test sprays	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses
Serevent™	Diskus, DPI	No priming necessary	Wipe mouthpiece with dry cloth	Built in counter: numbers turn red when 5 doses left
Symbicort™	HFA, MDI	New, not used for 7 days, or if dropped: Two test sprays, shaking well before each spray.	Wipe inside and outside of mouthpiece with clean, dry cloth. Do not take inhaler apart.	Count doses. Discard 3 months after taken out of foil pouch.
Ventolin HFA™	MDI	New, not used for 14 days or if dropped. Shake well, 4 sprays away from face;	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Dose counter in newest device; If not present, count doses. Discard 6 months after taken out of foil pouch
Xopenex™	HFA, MDI	New and when not used for 3 days: Shake well and release 4 test sprays.	Clean sleeve weekly by running water through, allow to dry before using	Count doses

