


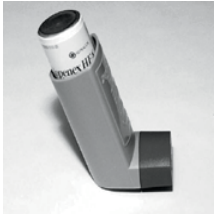








## Taking Care of Your HFA Asthma Inhaler



HFA inhalers need special care in order to make sure that they work properly and deliver the correct amount of asthma medication. See the chart below or the information that came with your inhaler for specific instructions.

For more asthma resources visit [sutterhealth.org/pamf/services/asthma/education-support](http://sutterhealth.org/pamf/services/asthma/education-support).

Brand Name (generic name)	Image	Priming Instructions – to prepare the inhaler before FIRST USE	Mouthpiece Weekly Cleaning Instructions
<p><b>ProAir</b> (albuterol)</p>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing three test sprays into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the above priming procedure before using ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than two weeks.</p>	<p>Remove medication canister! Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Clean the plastic mouthpiece by running warm water through the top to the bottom for 30 seconds at least once a week. Shake to remove excess water, and then air-dry thoroughly (such as overnight).</p>
<p><b>Proventil HFA</b> (albuterol)</p>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing four test sprays into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the above priming procedure before using ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than two weeks.</p>	<p>Remove medication canister! Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Clean the plastic mouthpiece by running warm water through the top to the bottom for 30 seconds at least once a week. Shake to remove excess water, and then air-dry thoroughly (such as overnight).</p>
<p><b>Ventolin HFA</b> (albuterol)</p>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing four test sprays into the air, away from the face. After the first priming, the counter should read “200.”</p> <p>Repeat the above priming procedure before using ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than two weeks OR if the inhaler is dropped.</p>	<p>Remove medication canister! Never get the canister wet</p> <p>Open the mouthpiece cap. Clean the plastic mouthpiece by running warm water through the top to the bottom for 30 seconds at least once a week.</p> <p>Shake to remove excess water, and then air-dry thoroughly (such as overnight).</p>

Brand Name (generic name)	Image	Priming Instructions – to prepare the inhaler before FIRST USE	Mouthpiece Weekly Cleaning Instructions
<p><b>Xopenex HFA</b> (levalbuterol)</p>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing four test sprays into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the above priming procedure before using ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than three days</p>	<p>Remove medication canister! Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Remove the mouthpiece cap. Clean the plastic mouthpiece by running warm water through the top to the bottom for 30 seconds at least once a week.</p> <p>Shake to remove excess water, and then air-dry thoroughly (such as overnight).</p>
<p><b>Asmanex HFA</b></p>		<p>Initially the dose counter will display “124” actuations. After the initial priming with 4 actuations, the dose counter will read “120” and the inhaler is now ready for use.</p>	<p>Clean mouthpiece using dry wipe after every 7 days of use: Remove cap off mouthpiece. Wipe inside and outside surfaces of mouthpiece with clean dry, lint-free cloth. Do not wash or put any parts of inhaler in water. Put cap back on mouthpiece after cleaning. Do not remove canister from the actuator Do not attempt to unblock the actuator with sharp object.</p>
<p><b>Advair HFA</b> (fluticasone/ salmeterol)</p>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing four test sprays into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with two sprays ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than four weeks OR if the inhaler is dropped.</p>	<p>DO NOT remove the medication canister. Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Remove the mouthpiece cap. Do not take the canister out of the plastic actuator. Use a cotton swab dampened with water to clean the small circular opening where the medicine sprays out of the canister. Repeat with a clean, water-dampened swab.</p> <p>Wipe the inside of the mouthpiece with a clean tissue dampened with water. Air dry overnight.</p>
<p><b>Alvesco</b> (ciclesonide)</p>		<p>Does not need to be shaken.</p> <p>Remove cap. Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing 3 (three) “test sprays” into the air, away from the face. After the first priming, the counter should read 60.</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with 3 (three) sprays, ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than 10 days.</p>	<p>Keep Dry! Do not wash or put any part of the inhaler in water.</p> <p>The mouthpiece of the inhaler should be cleaned weekly with a clean, dry tissue or cloth.</p>

Brand Name (generic name)	Image	Priming Instructions – to prepare the inhaler before FIRST USE	Mouthpiece Weekly Cleaning Instructions
<b>Atrovent HFA (ipratropium)</b>		<p>You do not have to shake Atrovent HFA before using.</p> <p>Prime 2 times before using the first dose and/or if the inhaler has not been used for more than 3 days.</p> <p>To prime, push the canister against the mouthpiece, allowing the medicine to spray into the air. Do not spray the medicine into your eyes while priming</p>	<p>Remove and set aside canister and dust cap from mouthpiece. Wash the mouthpiece through the top and bottom with warm running water for at least 30 seconds.</p> <p>Do not use anything other than water to wash mouthpiece. Dry mouthpiece by shaking off the excess water and allow it to air dry all the way. When mouthpiece is dry, replace the canister.</p> <p>Make sure the canister is fully and firmly inserted into mouthpiece. Replace the green protective dust cap.</p>
<b>Dulera (mometasone/ formoterol)</b>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Initially the dose counter will display “64” or “124” actuations or number of sprays.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing 4 test sprays into the air, away from the face. After the initial priming with 4 actuations, the dose counter will read “60” or “120” and the inhaler is now ready for use.</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with 4 sprays ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than 5 days.</p>	<p>Keep Dry! Do not wash or put any part of the inhaler in water.</p> <p>The mouthpiece of the inhaler should clean, dry tissue or cloth.</p> <p>The 120-inhalation inhaler does not require specific storage orientation. For the 60-inhalation inhaler, after priming, store the inhaler with the mouthpiece down or in a horizontal position.</p> <p>When the counter reads the number '20', you should refill your prescription</p>
<b>Flovent HFA (fluticasone)</b>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing four test sprays into the air, away from the face. After the first priming the counter should read “120.”</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with one spray ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than seven days OR if the inhaler is dropped.</p>	<p>DO NOT remove medication canister! Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Remove the mouthpiece cap. Do not take the canister out of the plastic actuator. Use a cotton swab dampened with water to clean the small circular opening where the medicine sprays out of the canister. Repeat with a clean, water-dampened swab.</p> <p>Wipe the inside of the mouthpiece with a clean tissue dampened with water. Air dry overnight.</p>

Brand Name (generic name)	Image	Priming Instructions – to prepare the inhaler before FIRST USE	Mouthpiece Weekly Cleaning Instructions
<b>QVAR</b> <b>(beclomethasone)</b>		<p>Does not need to be shaken.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing 2 (two) “test sprays” into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with 2 (two) sprays ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than 10 days.</p>	<p>Keep Dry! Do not wash or put any part of inhaler in water.</p> <p>The mouthpiece of the inhaler should be cleaned weekly with a clean, dry tissue or cloth.</p>
<b>Symbicort HFA</b> <b>(budesonide/ formoterol)</b>		<p>Shake the inhaler well.</p> <p>Prime the inhaler before using for the first time by releasing two test sprays into the air, away from the face.</p> <p>Repeat the priming procedure with two sprays ONLY if the inhaler has not been used for more than for 7 days OR if the inhaler is dropped.</p>	<p>Do not take the inhaler apart! Never get the canister wet.</p> <p>Remove mouthpiece cap. Clean the white mouthpiece of the inhaler every seven days.</p> <p>Wipe the inside and outside of the white mouthpiece opening with a clean, dry cloth. Replace the mouthpiece cover.</p>