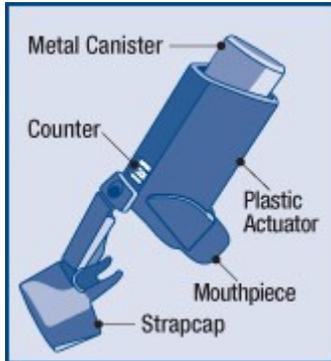


## Ventolin® HFA Inhaler (albuterol sulfate)

### What is Ventolin® HFA?



- Ventolin® HFA is a medication for your asthma. It is the same medication as albuterol.
- Ventolin® HFA works by relaxing the muscles of the airway so that you can breathe more easily.
- It is fast acting and therefore is used as a rescue inhaler.
- Ventolin® HFA is a new type of inhaler that contains an environmentally safe propellant (hydrofluoroalkane).
- By 12/31/2008 the FDA requires that all inhalers change propellants from CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) to HFA (hydrofluoroalkane), as part of an international effort to limit ozone-depleting substances released into the environment.

### How do you use your Ventolin® HFA inhaler?

When using your inhaler for the first time, you must “prime” it in order for the proper amount of medication to be released. To prime your inhaler:

1. Remove the mouthpiece cap.
2. Shake well.
3. Aim away from your face and press down on the metal canister to spray into the air.
4. Repeat this 3 more times (for a total of 4 sprays), shaking well before each spray.

Note: You do not need to prime your inhaler with every use. The only times you will prime your inhaler are: the first time you are using it, if you have not used it for more than 2 weeks, or if the inhaler has been dropped.

### Steps for Using your Inhaler:



1. Remove the mouthpiece cap.
2. Shake well.
3. Inhale a deep breath through your mouth and exhale completely.
4. Hold the inhaler vertically, place it in your mouth, and seal your lips around it (see below).
5. Press down on the metal canister while breathing in slowly and deeply.
6. Release the canister and remove the inhaler from your mouth.
7. Keeping your mouth closed, hold your breath for as long as possible, up to 10 seconds.
8. Exhale slowly through pursed lips. If using another spray, wait 1 minute before repeating steps 2-7.
9. Replace the mouthpiece cap and store at room temperature.

NOTE: Due to the fact that Ventolin® HFA contains a new type of propellant, you may not experience the same moist sensation or taste in your throat that you did with your previous inhaler. This difference is due to a change in the propellant and NOT a change in the medication. It is not necessary to re-administer the dose should this occur.



## How do you clean your Ventolin® HFA inhaler?



In order for your inhaler to work properly, it should be cleaned on a regular basis. It is recommended that you clean your inhaler at least once a week. To do so:

1. Remove the metal canister from the plastic actuator and set aside.
2. Open the mouthpiece and place the actuator under warm running water.
3. Shake off excess water and place flat to air dry.
4. When completely dry, replace canister.

## When do you replace/discard your Ventolin® HFA inhaler?

1. Your inhaler has a counter to show how many doses remain.
2. The number is displayed through a window on the back of actuator.
3. The counter starts at 64 and counts down by 1 for each dose used.
4. Replace your inhaler when the counter reads 020 (20 doses left).
5. Discard your inhaler when the counter reads 000 (empty) or 6 months after removing the foil pouch, whichever comes first. The foil pouch is used to protect the inhaler from moisture and heat. HFA inhalers do not contain additives and the propellant is therefore subject to breakdown once exposed to such environmental factors. It is important to follow these disposal guidelines to ensure the safety and efficacy of your inhaler.
5. **NEVER** use your inhaler after the expiration date on the package.

## What side effects may occur?

The incidence of side effects with Ventolin® HFA is the same as with previous albuterol inhalers. The following are some side effects that may occur with the use of your inhaler:

- dry mouth
- unpleasant taste
- throat irritation
- cough
- rapid heart rate
- palpitations
- chest pain
- tremor
- nervousness
- headache
- increased risk of respiratory infection

## Important Information about your Ventolin® HFA inhaler:

- Use this medication only as directed by your doctor.
- Do not increase the number or frequency of doses without first checking with your doctor.
- If this medication is not effective at relieving your symptoms or worsens your symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.

*If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist. To learn more, visit these websites:*  
[www.ventolin.com](http://www.ventolin.com) or [http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/albuterol\\_cfc.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/advisory/albuterol_cfc.htm)

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