

In-use shelf life of inhalers

All medicines including inhalers have an expiry date, usually under specified storage conditions. Medicines should not be used after their expiry date. Expiry dates for inhalers are printed on the outer cardboard box and on the canister and/or plastic device.

Some inhaler devices are also be packaged in a foil laminate or plastic pouch, usually containing a sachet of drying agent inside the outer cardboard box. Product Information and Consumer Medicines Information may include recommendations on in-use shelf life.

The in-use shelf life refers to the period during which the inhaler remains safe and effective after it has been opened for use. The period typically differs from the overall expiry date printed on the packaging.

Once these inhalers are exposed to air and moisture, they must be used within a specified timeframe to avoid reduced stability and efficacy. It is a good idea to label the inhaler with the date opened to keep track of when its in-use shelf life ends.

Always refer to the specific instructions that come with each inhaler, as manufacturers provide recommendations tailored to each device and medication. The following table provides a summary of in-use shelf life of inhalers available in Australia from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Active ingredient	Trade names	Foil / plastic pouch	Expiry after opening (in-use shelf life)
Short-acting beta2 agonist (SABA)			
Salbutamol	Ventolin, Asmol, Zempreon CFC-Free with dose counter	No	
	Airomir Autohaler	No	
Terbutaline	Bricanyl Turbuhaler	No	
Short-acting muscarinic antagonist (SAMA)			
Ipratropium	Atrovent Metered Aerosol (CFC-Free)	No	
Long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA)			
Aclidinium	Bretaris Genuair	Yes	90 days
Glycopyrronium	Seebri Breezhaler	No	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
Tiotropium	Braltus Zonda	No	Discard Zonda device after 30 uses
	Tiotropium Lupin	Blister strip of 10 capsules	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
	Spiriva Handihaler	Blister strip of 5 capsules	Use within 5 days
	Spiriva Respimat	No	Re-usable inhaler - 1 year Cartridge – 3 months
Umeclidinium	Incruse Ellipta	Yes	1 month

Active ingredient	Trade names	Foil / plastic pouch	Expiry after opening (in-use shelf life)
Long-acting beta2 agonist (LABA)			
Salmeterol	Serevent Accuhaler	No	
Formoterol	Oxis Turbuhaler	No	
Indacaterol	Onbrez Breezhaler	No	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
Inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)			
Beclometasone	Qvar Inhaler	No	
	Qvar Autohaler	No	
Budesonide	Pulmicort Turbuhaler	No	
Ciclesonide	Alvesco Metered Dose Inhaler	No	
Fluticasone propionate	Flixotide, Axotide Metered Dose Inhaler (CFC-Free)	No	
	Fluticasone Cipla Metered Dose Inhaler	No	
	Flixotide, Axotide Accuhaler	No	
Fluticasone furoate	Arnuity Ellipta	Yes	1 month
LAMA/LABA			
Glycopyrronium/indacaterol	Ultibro Breezhaler	No	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
Aclidinium/formoterol	Brimica Genuair	Yes	60 days
Umeclidinium/vilanterol	Anoro Ellipta	Yes	1 month
Tiotropium/olodaterol	Spiolto Respimat	No	Re-usable inhaler – 1 year Cartridge – 3 months
ICS/LABA			
Fluticasone propionate/salmeterol	Seretide, Pavtide, SalplusF, Fluticasone + Salmeterol Cipla, Evocair Metered Dose Inhaler	No	
	Seretide, Pavtide Accuhaler	No	

Active ingredient	Trade names	Foil / plastic pouch	Expiry after opening (in-use shelf life)
	Fluticasone Salmeterol Ciphaler	Yes	
	Salfumix Easyhaler 250/50 Salfumix Easyhaler 500/50	Yes	1 month 2 months
Fluticasone propionate/formoterol	Flutiform Metered Dose Inhaler	Yes	3 months
Budesonide/formoterol	Symbicort, Rilast Rapihaler	Yes	3 months
	Symbicort, Rilast Turbuhaler	No	
	DuoResp Spiromax	Yes	6 months
	Bufomix Easyhaler	Yes	1 month
Fluticasone furoate/vilanterol	Breo Ellipta	Yes	1 month
Beclometasone dipropionate/formoterol	Fostair Metered Dose Inhaler	No	Store in refrigerator for maximum of 15 months Store without refrigeration for maximum of 2 months
Mometasone/indacaterol	Ateectura Breezhaler	No	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
ICS/LAMA/LABA			
Beclometasone/glycopyrronium/formoterol	Trimbow Metered Dose Inhaler	No	Store without refrigeration for maximum of 2 months
Mometasone/glycopyrronium/indacaterol	Enerzair Breezhaler	No	Remove capsules from foil strip immediately before use
Fluticasone furoate/umeclidinium/vilanterol	Trelegy Ellipta	Yes	1 month
Budesonide/glycopyrronium/formoterol	Breztri Aerosphere	Yes	3 months