

OTC Medicine Labels



Medicine that you can buy without a prescription is called over-the-counter, or OTC medicine.

Labels have all the information you need to correctly choose medicine, and to use it safely.

This is an example of an OTC medicine label. It has important "Drug Facts".

Drug Facts	
Active ingredient (in each tablet) Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg	Purpose Antihistamine
Uses temporarily relieves these symptoms due to hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies: ■ sneezing ■ runny nose ■ itchy, watery eyes ■ itchy throat	
Warnings Ask a doctor before use if you have: ■ glaucoma ■ a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis ■ trouble urinating due to an enlarged prostate gland Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking tranquilizers or sedatives	
When using this product ■ drowsiness may occur ■ avoid alcoholic drinks ■ alcohol, sedatives, and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness ■ be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery ■ excitability may occur, especially in children	
If pregnant or breast-feeding, ask a health professional before use. Keep out of reach of children. In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.	
Directions	
adults and children 12 years and over	take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 12 tablets in 24 hours
children 6 years to under 12 years	take 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 6 tablets in 24 hours
children under 6 years	ask a doctor

The "Active Ingredient" is the scientific name of the medicine. This also shows the amount. Each tablet has 2 milligrams of the active ingredient.

Drug Facts	
Active Ingredient (in each tablet) Chlorpheniramine Maleate 2 mg	Purpose Antihistamine

"Uses" tell the symptoms or problems the medicine will treat. This relieves symptoms of allergies, such as sneezing and a runny nose.

Uses temporarily relieves these symptoms due to allergies n sneezing n runny nose
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"Warnings" tell who should not use this medicine. If you have glaucoma or emphysema you should ask your doctor before using this.

Warnings Ask a doctor before use is you have n glaucoma n a breathing problem such as emphysema
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"Warnings" tell what you should and should not do when you take this medicine. If you take this medicine, you should be careful when driving a motor vehicle.

Warnings	
<i>When using this product</i>	
n	<i>be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery</i>
n	<i>drowsiness may occur</i>

"Warnings" also list possible side effects. This medicine may cause drowsiness.

"Directions" explain how to use this medicine. Adults and children over 12 years old can take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours. Children between 6 and 12 should only take 1 tablet. Ask a doctor before you give this to a child under 6 years old.

Directions	
<i>Adults and children 12 and over</i>	<i>take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours not more than 12 tablets in 24 hours</i>
<i>Children 6 years to under 12 years</i>	<i>take 1 tablets every 4 to 6 hours not more than 6 tablets in 24 hours</i>
<i>Children under 6 years</i>	<i>ask a doctor</i>

Never take more medicine than the directions recommend.

Many medicines are sold in containers with child safety closures. Medicine can be poisonous to children. Remember to keep all medicine out of the sight and reach of children.



The best way to take good care of yourself when using any medicine is to read the label. If there is anything that you don't understand, ask the pharmacist.

For more information about prescription medicine labels see **Prescription Labels**.

For more information about warning labels see **Warning Labels**.

For more information about the side effects of medicine see **Side Effects**.