

Check the OTC Label

Since OTCs do not require a doctor's prescription, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates every OTC Drug Facts label to ensure it clearly outlines the instructions you need to choose the right medication to treat your symptoms, use the medication correctly, and get the most benefit from a medication.

Drug Facts labels always list information in the same order, outlined below. You should always read every section carefully before taking, or giving, a medicine because each section contains valuable information.

Active Ingredients

This section lists the ingredient or ingredients that make the product work. It is especially important to pay attention to this section if you are taking more than one medicine—whether OTC or prescription—to make sure you are not taking too much of the same active ingredient. Too much of an active ingredient can be harmful.

Purpose

This section tells you what type—or category—of medicine it is, such as an antacid or antihistamine.

Uses

The uses section explains the symptoms or illnesses for which the product should be used. Only use products that treat the symptoms you have. If you need help choosing a product, ask your pharmacist or other healthcare professional.

Warnings

There are times you should not take a medicine. The warnings section explains these times, and also tells you when a doctor or other healthcare professional needs to be consulted, possible side effects, and when to stop taking a product. If in doubt, talk to a doctor or pharmacist.

Directions

This section tells you exactly how and when to take a medicine. Remember that these directions are not suggestions or recommendations; they should be followed exactly because taking more of a medicine or for longer than labeled can be dangerous.

Other Information

This section contains information about how to store the product and additional information that is required by the FDA about certain ingredients, such as the amount of calcium, potassium, or sodium a product contains.

Inactive Ingredients

The inactive ingredients section also includes important information, especially if you or a loved one has a known allergy.

| Drug Facts | |
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| Active ingredient (in each tablet) Famotidine 10 mg | Purpose Acid reducer |
| Uses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ relieves heartburn associated with acid indigestion and sour stomach ■ prevents heartburn associated with acid indigestion and sour stomach brought on by eating or drinking certain food and beverages | |
| Warnings Allergy Alert: Do not use if you are allergic to famotidine or other acid reducers Do not use ■ if you have trouble or pain swallowing food, vomiting with blood, or bloody or black stools. These may be signs of a serious condition. See your doctor. ■ with other acid reducers Ask a doctor before use if you have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ had heartburn over 3 months. This may be a sign of a more serious condition. ■ heartburn with lightheadedness, sweating, or dizziness ■ chest pain or shoulder pain with shortness of breath, sweating, pain spreading to arms, neck or shoulders; or lightheadedness ■ frequent chest pain ■ frequent wheezing, particularly with heartburn ■ unexplained weight loss ■ nausea or vomiting ■ stomach pain Stop use and ask a doctor if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ your heartburn continues or worsens ■ you need to take this product for more than 14 days 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ adults and children 12 years and over: ■ to relieve symptoms, swallow 1 tablet with a glass of water. Do not chew. ■ to prevent symptoms, swallow 1 tablet with a glass of water 60 minutes before eating food or drinking beverages that cause heartburn ■ do no use more than 2 tablets in 24 hours ■ children under 12 years: ask a doctor | |
| Other information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ read the directions and warnings before use ■ keep the carton and package insert. They contain important information. ■ store at 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) ■ protect from moisture and light. | |
| Inactive ingredients colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hypromellose, indigo carmine aluminum lake FD&C blue no. 2, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol 4000, pregelatinized corn starch, titanium dioxide | |
| Questions? If you have questions of a medical nature, please contact your pharmacist, doctor, or health care professional. | |