

Acetaminophen

Names	Acetaminophen is the generic drug name. Tylenol® is a brand name. Acetaminophen is an ingredient in many other prescription and over-the-counter medications such as Anacin-3® and Lortab®.
How Do I Take This Medication?	Acetaminophen comes as a tablet, chewable tablet, dissolving tablet, capsule, liquid, drops, and granules (to be dissolved in water) to take by mouth. It is also available as a rectal suppository.
Why Am I Taking Acetaminophen?	<p>Acetaminophen relieves mild to moderate pain and reduces fever.</p> <p>Important: Taking more than 3000 milligrams (mg)* of acetaminophen in 24 hours may damage your liver or even cause death.</p> <p>Acetaminophen is an ingredient in more than 600 over-the-counter and prescription medications. In addition to products that contain only acetaminophen, it may be an ingredient in products that treat pain; cold, flu, or allergy symptoms; and sleeplessness. This means that you could take more than the recommended maximum daily dose without realizing it. Each tablet, capsule, granule packet, etc. may contain up to 650 mg of acetaminophen. You should know the amount of acetaminophen in every product you are taking.</p> <p>Check the Drug Facts label on over-the-counter medications, or the drug information given to you with your prescription medication. APAP, acetaminophen, and Tylenol® are all the same active ingredient.</p> <p>Read the information insert in the package and talk with your healthcare provider about a dose that is safe for you.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• if you are allergic to acetaminophen• if you have, or have ever had, liver disease• if you have a history of alcohol abuse or currently drink 3 or more alcohol beverages every day• if you are taking any medications or supplements that affect blood clotting (blood thinners) such as warfarin (Coumadin® or Jantoven®) or garlic tablets

This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

Although side effects from acetaminophen are not common, they can occur.

Reported side effects include:

- dizziness or drowsiness
- dry mouth, nose, or throat
- headache
- upset stomach
- nervousness or trouble sleeping

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: rash, itching, hives, palpitations (feeling fast or irregular heartbeat. Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if you have signs of a severe reaction: swelling in your face, mouth, or throat; difficulty breathing or swallowing; or shortness of breath
- any sign of an overdose: unusual bruising or bleeding (bleeding that lasts more than 10-15 minutes; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or mucus, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots); decrease in amount of urine passed; nausea and/vomiting; fever or sore throat; or yellowing of the skin or eyes

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have an upset stomach that does not go away.

What Else
Should I Know
About
Acetaminophen?

- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed. Talk to your pharmacist about the proper disposal of your medication.
- You should not drink alcohol beverages while taking acetaminophen.
- **Severe liver damage may occur and may lead to death if you take:**
 - more acetaminophen than directed
 - more than one medicine containing acetaminophen (and you go over the daily limit)
 - acetaminophen and drink 3 or more alcoholic drinks every day
- **Most healthy people can take acetaminophen safely by:**
 - not using more than one medicine containing acetaminophen in a day
 - reading and following all the directions on the medicine label, or the directions given by his or her doctor
- **This is what you should know to take acetaminophen safely**
 - How much you can take at one time (dose)
 - How many hours you must wait before taking another dose
 - How many times you can take it each day
 - When you should not take it
- **If you take too much acetaminophen, you might have liver damage** and not know it. Symptoms may not appear for days, and early symptoms may seem like the flu. You may lose your appetite, have nausea or vomiting, or see a yellow coloring in your skin or eyes (jaundice).

For more information

- talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist
- visit the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website: www.fda.gov/drugs, call the FDA at **1-888-INFO-FDA** , or
- e-mail questions to the FDA at druginfo@fda.hhs.gov