

### What are Herbal Capsules?

Herbal capsules are a convenient form of herbal medicine where powdered herbs are enclosed in capsules made of gelatin or plant-based materials. They are used to deliver concentrated doses of herbs in a precise and easy-to-take format.

## **Benefits of Herbal Capsules**

- 1. Convenient: Capsules are easy to take and dose, making them ideal for regular use.
- Precise Dosage: They allow for accurate measurement of herbal doses, which is useful for maintaining consistency.
- 3. No Taste: Capsules mask the taste of herbs, which can be beneficial for those who find certain herbs unpalatable.
- 4. Portable: Capsules are easy to carry and store, making them ideal for travel or busy lifestyles.

## **Shelf Life and Storage Guidelines**

- Shelf Life: Herbal capsules generally last from 1 to 2 years, depending on the herbs used and storage conditions. Capsules made with high-quality ingredients and proper encapsulation techniques can last longer.
- Storage: Store capsules in a cool, dry place away from light and moisture. A dark glass jar or an opaque container with a tight seal is ideal.
- Refrigeration: Not necessary, but refrigerating capsules can help extend their shelf life, particularly in humid climates.

# **Preparing Herbal Capsules: Step-by-Step**

- 1. Choose Your Herbs: Select dried and powdered herbs based on your health goals. Common choices include:
  - o Turmeric: For its anti-inflammatory properties.
  - o Echinacea: For immune support.
  - o Ginger: For digestive health.
  - o Ashwagandha: For stress relief.
- 2. Powder the Herbs:

- o Grinding: If using whole dried herbs, grind them into a fine powder using a mortar and pestle, spice grinder, or dedicated herb grinder.
- Sifting: Sift the powdered herbs through a fine mesh strainer to remove larger particles and ensure a consistent texture.

### 3. Prepare the Capsules:

- o Capsule Size: Choose the size of the capsules you want to use. Size 0 or 00 are common choices for herbal supplements.
- Capsule Shells: Purchase empty gelatin or vegetable capsules from a reputable supplier.

## 4. Fill the Capsules:

- Manual Filling: Use a capsule filling machine or manual capsule filler to fill the capsules with the powdered herb. Ensure the powder is evenly distributed and packed tightly.
- o Cleaning: Keep your workspace and equipment clean to avoid contamination.

# 5. Seal the Capsules:

- Cap the Capsules: Ensure that the capsule halves are properly sealed. For manual filling, press the capsule halves together firmly until they click into place.
- Check for Loose Capsules: Inspect the filled capsules to ensure they are properly sealed and free of any loose powder.

#### 6. Store and Label:

- Storage: Store the filled capsules in a cool, dry place. Avoid exposure to heat, light, and moisture.
- Label: Label the container with the date, herb used, and dosage information. Include any additional notes about the intended use or health benefits.

#### **Tools / Ingredients**

- Powdered herbs or dried herbs & herb grinder
- Capsules "00" size
- The Capsule Machine (optional, very helpful)

## **Additional Tips**

- Dosage: Follow recommended dosage guidelines for the herbs you are using. Dosage may vary based on the herb and individual health needs.
- Quality Control: Ensure you are using high-quality herbs and maintaining good hygiene practices to prevent contamination.
- Consultation: Consider consulting with a healthcare provider or herbalist to confirm the appropriate herbs and dosages for your needs.