



FACTS *About...*



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Male Condom

What is it?

Male condoms are formed in the shape of a penis and are made of latex, polyurethane (non-latex) or lambskin. Sometimes called rubbers, safes, or jimmies, condoms are worn on the penis during intercourse. Condoms prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of most sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS. They are available in different styles and colors, lubricated, non-lubricated or with spermicide.

How effective is it?

Condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy when used regularly and properly.

What are the benefits?

Condoms can be bought without a prescription. Non-latex condoms are available for individuals with a sensitivity or allergy to latex. They are the only form of birth control that can also prevent most STIs, including HIV/AIDS.

What are the limitations?

Some people may be allergic or sensitive to condoms, resulting in skin irritation. There is a chance the condom could break during usage. They must be stored and handled carefully. Oil or petroleum based lubricants should not be used as they increase the chances of condom breakage. Condoms are your best protection against STIs but do not prevent transmission of all STI's. Any skin-to-skin contact can lead to transmission of STIs.

You should know...

Lambskin condoms do not protect against STIs. Latex or polyurethane (non-latex) condoms should be used. Condoms should be put on before any sexual contact takes place. Water-based lubrication is recommended to decrease the chance of breakage. Condoms cannot be reused and must be disposed of properly after use. Condoms must be stored away from direct sources of heat or sunlight. Always check for the expiry date on the condom before using.

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For more information
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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.