

Other methods of contraception

Abstaining from (not having) vaginal sex (Y)

Effectiveness with perfect use: 100%

Things to consider:

- Can increase creativity and variety in ways to give and receive sexual pleasure.
- Requires cooperation of partner/s.
- May not be easy to maintain long term.

Withdrawal (pulling out)

Removing the penis from the vagina before ejaculation.

Effectiveness with typical use: 80%*

Things to consider:

- Free and always available.
- Less effective than other methods, especially for young people.
- Can be difficult to pull out in time.
- Pre-cum may contain sperm.

Fertility awareness methods

The person learns to identify their fertile time and avoids sex during this time.

Effectiveness with typical use: 76-93%*

Things to consider:

- Can use multiple methods together for greater effectiveness.
- Requires constant monitoring, discipline, and planning.
- Requires cooperation of partner/s.

Sterilisation

Permanent methods of contraception requiring an operation.

Effectiveness: 99.5%

Things to consider:

- If you might want a pregnancy to occur in the future.

Emergency contraception (EC)

Emergency contraception reduces the chance of pregnancy after unprotected sex.

If you have not used contraception correctly and consistently, or not used contraception at all, you may want to consider EC.

There are two types – the copper IUD and emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs).

Copper IUD

The copper IUD can be inserted up to five days after unprotected sex to prevent pregnancy.

Things to consider:

- Also provides immediate and ongoing contraception.
- Needs to be inserted by a trained health professional.
- More effective than ECPs but also more costly.
- Accessing a timely appointment for insertion may be difficult.

Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs)

There are two types of ECPs available and they work by delaying the release of an egg from the ovaries (ovulation). Both types can be taken up to five days after sex but are most effective if taken in the first 24 hours.

Things to consider:

- Can be obtained without a script from most pharmacies.
- Can be taken more than once.
- Doesn't provide protection from further unprotected sex.
- Not as effective as ongoing contraception.

Resources



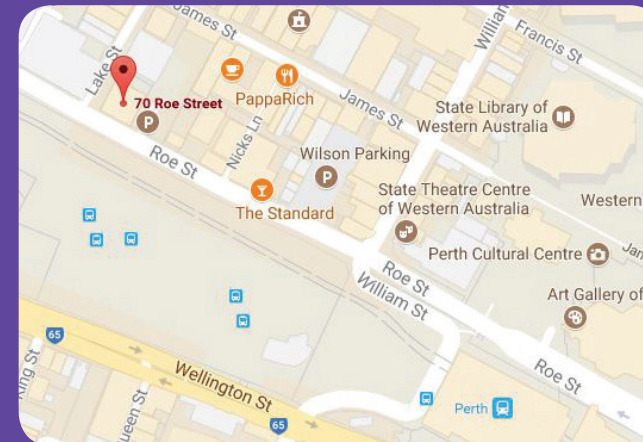
For more detailed information, please visit shq.org.au

For more information contact:

SHQ (Sexual Health Quarters)
70 Roe Street, Northbridge WA 6003
☎ 9227 6177 ✉ info@shq.org.au

Sexual Health Helpline
Metropolitan callers ☎ 9227 6178
Country callers ☎ 1800 198 205
✉ sexhelp@shq.org.au

Counselling
☎ 9228 3693 ✉ counselling@shq.org.au



shq.org.au



SHQ is on Whadjuk land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country across Australia.

© Family Planning Association of WA (Inc.) March 2021

Contraception

Choices



S+
HQ

What is contraception?

Contraception is something you do or use to prevent pregnancy. Condoms are the only method of contraception that also protect against sexually transmissible infections (STIs).

There are different methods of contraception available and a number of factors you may want to consider when deciding which method is best for you e.g. effectiveness, ease of use, cost, potential side effects etc.

Visit your local GP or sexual health clinic for contraceptive advice. Your health professional can help you choose the best type for you. It's also a good idea to discuss contraception with your sexual partner/s before sex.

Long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs)

LARCs are the most effective methods of preventing pregnancy. They are 'fit and forget' methods that are inserted and removed by a trained health professional. Fertility returns immediately upon removal.

Contraceptive implant

The implant is a flexible plastic rod, inserted under the skin of the upper arm. It releases a hormone (progesterone) to stop the ovaries from releasing an egg (ovulation).



Effectiveness: 99.9%

Things to consider:

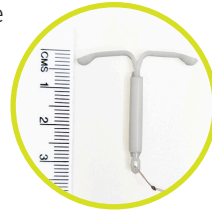
- Highly effective.
- Safe and suitable for most people.
- Lasts for three years; can be removed at any time by a health professional.
- Can cause light bleeds or no bleeds at all.

Intrauterine devices (IUDs)

The IUD is a flexible device inserted into the uterus.

Hormonal IUDs (progesterone) alter the lining of the uterus and thicken the mucus at the cervix.

Copper IUDs contain no hormones and affect sperm movement.



Effectiveness:

Hormonal IUD 99.9%; Copper IUD 99.5%

Things to consider:

- Highly effective.
- Safe and suitable for most people.
- Lasts for 5-10 years depending on the type; can be removed at any time by a health professional.
- Hormonal IUDs reduce bleeding. Copper IUDs sometimes cause heavier bleeding.

Shorter-acting hormonal contraception

A regular prescription is needed for all shorter-acting hormonal contraception.

Oral contraceptive pills rely on regular and consistent daily use to be effective. Certain medications, vomiting or diarrhoea can decrease the effectiveness of the pills.

Contraceptive injection

The injection is given every 12 weeks by a health professional. It releases a hormone (progesterone) to stop the ovaries from releasing an egg (ovulation).



Effectiveness with typical use: 96%*

Things to consider:

- Safe and suitable for most people.
- Can cause light bleeds or no bleeds at all.
- May be a delay in return to usual fertility.

Combined oral contraceptive pill (COCP)

The COCP contains two hormones (oestrogen and progesterone) which stop the ovaries from releasing an egg (ovulation).

Effectiveness with typical use: 93%*

Things to consider:

- Need to remember to take it every day.
- Regular and less painful bleeds.
- People can choose to skip bleeds.
- May have health risks or side effects for some.



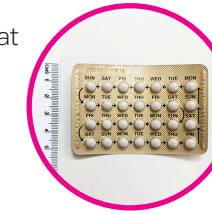
Progesterone only pill (POP or Mini Pill)

The POP contains only one hormone (progesterone) which thickens the mucus at the cervix.

Effectiveness with typical use: 93%*

Things to consider:

- Safe and suitable for most people.
- Bleeding patterns may change.
- Need to remember to take it at the same time every day (if taken more than three hours late, the risk of pregnancy increases).



Vaginal contraceptive ring

The vaginal ring contains two hormones (oestrogen and progesterone) which stop the ovaries from releasing an egg (ovulation).

Effectiveness with typical use: 93%*

Things to consider:

- Must remember to insert a new ring every month.
- Regular and less painful bleeds.
- People can choose to skip bleeds.
- May have health risks or side effects for some.
- Most people have no problems with use during sex.



Barrier methods of contraception

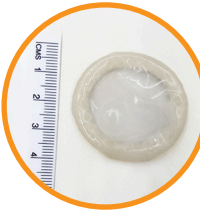
Condoms (external)

The external condom is a latex or plastic sheath that is rolled onto the erect penis to create a barrier during sex.

Effectiveness with typical use: 88%*

Things to consider:

- Protects against STIs.
- Can be used with other methods to increase effectiveness.
- Easily available in a variety of sizes, colours and flavours.
- Need to use it carefully and correctly to reduce breakage.



Condoms (internal)

The internal condom is a plastic pouch that is inserted into the vagina to create a barrier during sex.

Effectiveness with typical use: 79%*

Things to consider:

- Protects against STIs.
- Can be used with other methods to increase effectiveness.
- Can be inserted well before sex begins.
- Not widely available.



Diaphragms

The diaphragm is a silicone dome that sits inside the vagina and covers the cervix to create a barrier during sex. Recommended to use with contraceptive gel.

Effectiveness with typical use: 82%*

Things to consider:

- Can last 1-2 years.
- Can be inserted well before sex begins.
- Needs to stay in the vagina for at least six hours after sex, then can be removed for cleaning.



**Typical use reflects how effective methods are for the average person who may not always use methods correctly/consistently.*