



2: MALE CONDOM

**Failure rate:
11%**

The male condom is a thin sheath that fits over an erect penis. Condoms prevent pregnancy by stopping sperm from being released into the vagina. Condoms can be purchased over the counter.

Condoms are made of latex, polyurethane, or animal intestine. While all of these types can prevent pregnancy, latex condoms provide the best protection against STIs. Even latex condoms, however, do not provide protection from all types of STIs.

Some condoms contain **SPERMICIDE**. Spermicide is a chemical agent that kills sperm. Because spermicide may increase the risk of HIV transmission, the CDC recommends the use of condoms *without* spermicide.

Condoms must be used carefully and consistently to prevent pregnancy and the transmission of STIs:

- Roll the condom over an erect penis before any sexual activity (intercourse, oral sex, or anal sex)
- About 1/2 inch should be left between the tip of the penis and the condom (if the condom doesn't have a reservoir tip) to collect the semen
- The condom should be withdrawn while the penis is still erect—hold the base of the condom during withdrawal
- Throw the condom away after each use and discard it immediately
- Condoms should not be exposed to heat, lotions, or petroleum-based products, which weaken the latex