

Your Birth Control Choices

Method	How well does it work?	How to Use	Pros	Cons
The Implant (Nexplanon™) 	> 99%	A health care provider places it under the skin of the upper arm It must be removed by a health care provider	Long lasting (up to 3 years) No pill to take daily Often decreases cramps Can be used while breastfeeding You can become pregnant right after it is removed	Can cause irregular bleeding After 1 year, you may have no period at all Does not protect against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
Progestin IUD (Liletta®, Mirena®, Skyla®) 	> 99%	Must be placed in uterus by a health care provider Usually removed by a health care provider	Mirena® may be left in place up to 7 years Skyla® and Liletta® may be left in place up to 3 years No pill to take daily May improve period cramps and bleeding Can be used while breastfeeding You can become pregnant right after it is removed	May cause lighter periods, spotting, or no period at all Rarely, uterus is injured during placement Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
Copper IUD (ParaGard®) 	> 99%	Must be placed in uterus by a health care provider Usually removed by a health care provider	May be left in place for up to 12 years No pill to take daily Can be used while breastfeeding You can become pregnant right after it is removed	May cause more cramps and heavier periods May cause spotting between periods Rarely, uterus is injured during placement Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
The Shot Depo-Provera® 	94-99%	Get shot every 3 months	Each shot works for 12 weeks Private Usually decreases periods Helps prevent cancer of the uterus No pill to take daily Can be used while breastfeeding	May cause spotting, no period, weight gain, depression, hair or skin changes, change in sex drive May cause delay in getting pregnant after you stop the shots Side effects may last up to 6 months after you stop the shots Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
The Pill 	91-99%	Must take the pill daily	Can make periods more regular and less painful Can improve PMS symptoms Can improve acne Helps prevent cancer of the ovaries You can become pregnant right after stopping the pills	May cause nausea, weight gain, headaches, change in sex drive – some of these can be relieved by changing to a new brand May cause spotting the first 1-2 months Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
Progestin-Only Pills 	91-99%	Must take the pill daily	Can be used while breastfeeding You can become pregnant right after stopping the pills	Often causes spotting, which may last for many months May cause depression, hair or skin changes, change in sex drive Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
The Patch Ortho Evra® 	91-99%	Apply a new patch once a week for three weeks No patch in week 4	Can make periods more regular and less painful No pill to take daily You can become pregnant right after stopping patch	Can irritate skin under the patch May cause spotting the first 1-2 months Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
The Ring Nuvaring® 	91-99%	Insert a small ring into the vagina Change ring each month	One size fits all Private Does not require spermicide Can make periods more regular and less painful No pill to take daily You can become pregnant right after stopping the ring	Can increase vaginal discharge May cause spotting the first 1-2 months of use Does not protect against HIV or other STIs

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Male/External Condom 	82-98%	Use a new condom each time you have sex Use a polyurethane condom if allergic to latex	Can buy at many stores Can put on as part of sex play/foreplay Can help prevent early ejaculation Can be used for oral, vaginal, and anal sex Protects against HIV and other STIs Can be used while breastfeeding	Can decrease sensation Can cause loss of erection Can break or slip off
Female/Internal Condom 	79-95%	Use a new condom each time you have sex Use extra lubrication as needed	Can buy at many stores Can put in as part of sex play/foreplay Can be used for anal and vaginal sex May increase pleasure when used for vaginal sex Good for people with latex allergy Protects against HIV and other STIs Can be used while breastfeeding	Can decrease sensation May be noisy May be hard to insert May slip out of place during sex
Withdrawal Pull-out	78-96%	Pull penis out of vagina before ejaculation (that is, before coming)	Costs nothing Can be used while breastfeeding	Less pleasure for some Does not work if penis is not pulled out in time Does not protect against HIV or other STIs Must interrupt sex
Diaphragm 	88-94%	Must be used each time you have sex Must be used with spermicide A health care provider will fit you and show you how to use it	Can last several years Costs very little to use May protect against some infections, but not HIV Can be used while breastfeeding	Using spermicide may raise the risk of getting HIV Should not be used with vaginal bleeding or infection Raises risk of bladder infection
Rhythm Natural Family Planning, Fertility Awareness 	76-99%	Predict fertile days by: taking temperature daily, checking vaginal mucus for changes, and/or keeping a record of your periods It works best if you use more than one of these Avoid sex or use condoms/spermicide during fertile days	Costs little Can be used while breastfeeding Can help with avoiding or trying to become pregnant	Must use another method during fertile days Does not work well if your periods are irregular Many things to remember with this method Does not protect against HIV or other STIs
Spermicide Cream, gel, sponge, foam, inserts, film 	72-82%	Insert more spermicide each time you have sex	Can buy at many stores Can be put in as part of sex play/foreplay Comes in many forms: cream, gel, sponge, foam, inserts, film Can be used while breastfeeding	May raise the risk of getting HIV May irritate vagina, penis Cream, gel, and foam can be messy
Emergency Contraception Pills Progestin EC (Plan B® One-Step, Next Choice® and others) and ulipristal acetate (ella®) 	58-94%	Works best the sooner you take it after unprotected sex You can take EC up to 5 days after unprotected sex If pack contains 2 pills, take both together You should start a birth control method right after using EC to avoid pregnancy	Can be used while breastfeeding Available at pharmacies, health centers or health care providers: call ahead to see if they have it Women and men of any age can get some brands without a prescription	May cause stomach upset or nausea Your next period may come early or late May cause spotting Does not protect against HIV or other STIs Women under age 17 need a prescription for some brands Ulipristal requires a prescription May cost a lot