

# Your Birth Control Choices

Method	How well does it work?	How to Use	Pros	Cons
<b>The Implant</b> 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 4 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)
<b>Progestin IUD</b> 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
<b>Copper IUD</b> 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
<b>The Shot</b> Depo-Provera® 	94-99%	Get a 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
<b>The Pill</b> 	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
<b>Progestin-Only Pills</b> 	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
<b>The Patch</b> 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
<b>The Ring</b> 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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<b>Male/External Condom</b> 	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
<b>Female/Internal Condom</b> 	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
<b>Withdrawal</b> 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
<b>Diaphragm</b> 	88-94%	Must be used each time you have sex Must be used with spermicide	Can last several years Costs very little to use May protect against some infections, but <b>not HIV</b> 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
<b>Fertility Awareness</b> Natural Family Planning 	76-95%	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
<b>Spermicide</b> Cream, gel, sponge, foam, inserts, film 	72-82%	Insert 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
<b>Emergency Contraception Pills</b> Progestin EC (Plan B® One-Step and others) and ulipristal acetate EC (ella®) 	58-94% Ulipristal acetate EC works better than progestin EC if you are overweight Ulipristal acetate EC works better than progestin EC in the 2-5 days after sex	Works best the <b>sooner</b> 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	Can be used while breastfeeding Available at pharmacies, health centers, or health care providers: call ahead to see if they have it People 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 If you are under age 17 you may need a prescription for some brands Ulipristal acetate EC requires a prescription May cost a lot