

## MALE CONDOM

### Effectiveness (chances of NOT getting pregnant)

- 86 – 97%

### What is a male condom?

- Made out of latex (rubber), but polyurethane and tactylon (both plastic) are available.
- Over the counter barrier method of birth control.

### Advantages of the male condom

- Easy to get and relatively inexpensive.
- Can be discontinued at any time.
- Provides some protection from sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.
- Reliable method for people who cannot use hormonal birth control methods.
- Responsibility of both partners.
- Can be purchased without a prescription.
- Does not interfere with breast-feeding.

### Disadvantages of the male condom

You may experience the following:

- Non-cooperative partner.
- Some irritation or sensitivity to latex.
- Difficulty using condoms correctly.
- Must use a new condom with every sex act.
- Some men say it reduces sexual feelings.
- Must be rolled onto an erect penis before sexual intercourse, can interrupt foreplay.
- Spillage or leaking of sperm is possible if condom is put on or removed incorrectly.

### How Should I decide?

- Will you remember to use it every time you have sex?
- Will your partner be cooperative in the use of this method?
- Can you or your partner maintain an erection?
- Does this method fit with your religious or moral beliefs?
- Is the condom the best method for you?
- Do you want to discuss this method with your clinician, family planning clinic staff, partner, friend, or family member? In the Philadelphia area, click here for a list of local family planning clinics. Outside of Philadelphia, please click here for a clinic near you [www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org).

**Reminder: This method provides some protection against sexually transmitted diseases STD's, including HIV and Hepatitis B. Using condoms consistently can help to protect you from STD's.**