Contraceptive Options

Method	How to Use	Things to Know	Effect on Period	Effectiveness ¹
The Implant Nexplanon®	A clinician places it under the skin of the upper arm • It must be removed by a clinician • Set it and forget it	Long lasting (up to 5 years) • Private for user • You can become pregnant right after it is removed • It may lower the risk of uterine lining cancer, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) • May cause mood changes • Progestin-Only • Cramps and PMS symptoms often improve	Can cause irregular bleeding and spotting • You may have no monthly bleeding at all	More than 99%
Progestin IUD Mirena®, Kyleena®, Liletta®, & Skyla®	Must be placed in uterus by a clinician • Usually removed by a clinician • Set it and forget it	May be left in place 3 to 7 years, depending on which IUD you choose • Private for user • You can become pregnant right after removal • It may lower the risk of uterine lining cancer, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) • Rarely, uterus is injured during placement • May improve cramps and PMS symptoms • Can treat endometriosis symptoms	Usually causes lighter monthly bleeding, or no monthly bleeding at all • May cause spotting	More than 99%
Copper IUD Paragard®	Must be placed in uterus by a clinician • Usually removed by a clinician • Set it and forget it	May be left in place for up to 12 years • You can become pregnant right after removal • It may lower the risk of uterine lining cancer, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) • Private • Rarely, uterus is injured during placement • Hormone free	• May cause cramps and heavy monthly bleeding • May cause spotting between monthly bleeding (if on testosterone, this may not be an issue)	More than 99%
Copper IUD as Emergency Contraception (EC)	Must be placed in uterus by a clinician within 5 days of unprotected sex			More than 99%

The Shot Depo-Provera®	Get a shot every 3 months • Give yourself the shot or get it in a medical office	• Each shot works for 12 weeks • Private • It may lower the risk of uterine lining cancer, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) • May cause weight gain, depression, hair or skin changes • Side effects may last up to 6 months after you stop the shots • Progestin-Only	Often decreases monthly bleeding May cause spotting or no monthly bleeding	96-99%
The Ring Nuvaring® & Annovera®	Insert a small, flexible ring into the vagina for 3 weeks and remove for one week	There are two types: a monthly ring and a yearly ring. One size fits all • Private • You can become pregnant right after stopping the ring • This method contains estrogen - it is unclear if estrogen interacts with testosterone	Can make monthly bleeding more regular • May cause spotting the first few months • User can choose to skip period with the Nuvaring®	93-99%
The Patch Xulane® & Twirla®	Apply a new patch once a week for three weeks • No patch in week 4	You can become pregnant right after stopping patch Can irritate skin under the patch This method contains estrogen - it is unclear if estrogen interacts with testosterone Patch only comes in one color If using Twirla, avoid water exposure over 30 minutes	 Can make monthly bleeding more regular and less painful May cause spotting the first few months 	93-99%
The Pill (Combination Pills)	Take the pill daily	Can improve PMS symptoms • Can improve acne • Helps prevent cancer of the ovaries • This method contains estrogen - it is unclear if estrogen interacts with testosterone • You can become pregnant right after stopping the pills • May cause nausea, weight gain, headaches - may be relieved by changing to a new brand	Often causes spotting, which may last for many months • User can choose to skip period	93-99%

Progestin-Only Pills	Take the pill at the same time daily	You can become pregnant right after stopping the pills It may lower the risk of uterine lining cancer, ovarian cancer, and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) • May cause depression, hair or skin changes - may be relieved by changing to a new brand	Can make monthly bleeding more regular and less painful May cause spotting the first few months	93-99%
External Condoms	Use a new condom each time you have sex Use a polyurethane condom if allergic to latex	Protects against HIV and other STIs • Can be used for oral, vaginal, and anal sex • Can buy at many stores • Can help prevent early ejaculation • Can decrease penile sensation • Can cause loss of erection • Can break or slip off • Does not need a prescription	None	87-98%
Withdrawal Pull-out Method	Pull penis out of vagina before ejaculation (that is, before coming)	Costs nothing • Less pleasure for some • Does not work if penis is not pulled out in time • Must interrupt sex • Person with penis must urinate prior to sexual interaction	None	80-96%
Internal (Female) Condoms FC2®	Use a new condom each time you have sex Use extra lubrication as needed	Protects against HIV and other STIs • Can be used for anal and vaginal sex • Good for people with latex allergy • Can decrease penile sensation • May be noisy • May be hard to insert • May slip out of place during sex • May require a prescription from your healthcare provider	None	79-95%

Emergency Contraception (EC) Pills Ella®, Plan B® & many others	• Works best the sooner you take it • You can take EC up to 5 days after unprotected sex • If pack contains 2 pills, take both at once • Ella works better than progestin EC 3-5 days after sex	• Available at pharmacies, health centers, or health care providers • People of any age can get progestin EC (such as Plan B®) without a prescription • Ulipristal acetate EC (Ella®) requires a prescription • May cause stomach upset or nausea • Progestin EC does not interact with testosterone, it is unknown if Ella® does or not • May cost a lot • Ella works better than progestin EC if your body mass index (BMI) is over 26. • EC pill is not the same as an abortion pill	Your next monthly bleeding may come early or late • May cause spotting	Up to 95%
Vaginal Acidifying Gel Phexxi®	Insert gel prior to each time you have sex • Must be inserted within one hour of sexual activity	Does not have any hormones Requires a prescription May cost a lot May irritate vagina or penis Should not be used with urinary tract infection	None	86-93% ²
Fertility Awareness Natural Family Planning	• Predict fertile days by: taking temperature daily, checking vaginal mucus for changes, and/or keeping a record of your monthly bleeding • It works best if you use more than one of these methods • Avoid sex or use alternate method on fertile days	Costs little • Can help with avoiding or trying to become pregnant • Use a different contraceptive method on fertile days or avoid sex • This method requires a lot of effort • Does not require a prescription	Does not work well if your monthly bleeding is irregular	66-99%
Abstinence	Avoid sex	• Engaging in sex is often unplanned and users can be unprepared • Have a backup method prepared, just in case • Abstaining from sex can happen at any point in one's life, even after previous sexual activity	None	Unknown-100%

¹ Guttmacher, Contraceptive Effectiveness in the United States, 2020 https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/contraceptive-effectiveness-united-states

² Phexxi®, https://www.phexxi.com/phexxi/efficacy