

CONTRACEPTION



Contraception refers to the methods used to prevent pregnancy.

There are around 14 methods, but only condoms and female condoms will protect you from sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well.

EXPLORE
ALL METHODS
OVERLEAF



ABOUT BROOK SERVICES

- They're fully confidential (even if you're under 16)
- They're free of charge
- 'Drop in' and appointment booking available
- Bring someone with you if it helps
- No judgement – we've seen it all and simply care about your health



WHERE CAN YOU GET IT?



Brook runs free, confidential sexual health and wellbeing services for under 25s. These services provide:

- contraception
- emergency contraception
- STI testing & treatment
- pregnancy tests & advice

Our service finder will help you find your nearest service, including Brook: brook.org.uk/find-a-service

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION



This can be used after unprotected sex, to prevent pregnancy. There are two types:

Emergency contraceptive pill (AKA the 'morning after pill'): can be taken up to 5 days later. Available from a range of services and some pharmacies

Intrauterine device (IUD): fitted by a doctor or nurse within 5 days. IUD is also a method of regular contraception

Remember: if you've had unprotected sex you need to have an STI test too!



DID YOU KNOW?

Methods of LARC (long acting reversible contraception) are the most effective you can get. They are fitted or prescribed by a doctor or nurse and can last for months or even years.

See overleaf for the different types.



Find out more about contraception at: brook.org.uk/contraception

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Find out more about each method at:
brook.org.uk/contraception



Barrier methods: stop sexual fluids being transferred between partners. Only condoms protect against STIs and pregnancy. Hormonal methods: hormones oestrogen and/or progestogen work to disrupt the process that leads to pregnancy. Other Permanent	Condoms	Internal or female condoms	Diaphragms and caps	Combined pill	Progestogen-only pill (mini pill or POP)	Contraceptive implant	Contraceptive injection	Contraceptive patch	Contraceptive vaginal ring	Intrauterine system (IUS or Mirena)	Intrauterine device (IUD)	Fertility awareness methods	Sterilisation (male & female)
	98%	95%	92-99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	75%	99%
	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Effectiveness (with correct use)	98%	95%	92-99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	75%	99%
Protects against STIs & pregnancy	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Use only when you have sex	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Use every day	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
May help with heavy periods	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lasts for months or years	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Widely available	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Doesn't interrupt sex	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Hormone free	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Easy to hide	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mistake proof	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
LARC (long acting reversible contraception)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗