

What's the Difference Between the Male Condom and the Female Condom?



The FC female condom (FC1/FC2) is the only currently available woman-initiated form of protection against unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV/AIDS. It is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and listed on the World Health Organization's (WHO) Essential Products List.

Male Condom	FC2 Female Condom
Rolled on to a man's penis	Inserted into a woman's vagina
Lubricant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can include spermicide • Can be water-based only; cannot be oil-based • Located on the outside of condom 	Lubricant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can include spermicide • Can be water-based or oil-based • Located on the inside and outside of condom
Requires erect penis	Does not require erect penis
Condom must be put on an erect penis	Can be inserted prior to sexual intercourse, not dependent on erect penis
Must be removed immediately after ejaculation	Does not need to be removed immediately after ejaculation
Covers most of the penis and protects the woman's internal genitalia.	Covers both the woman's internal and part of her external genitalia and the base of the penis, which provides broader protection.
Latex condoms can decay if not stored properly	Is not susceptible to deterioration from temperature or humidity.
Recommended as one-time use product.	Recommended as a one-time use product.