

Spermicide

What is spermicide used for?

Spermicide is a chemical that kills sperm. It is used to prevent pregnancy. It comes in different forms, such as foam, gel, cream, film, vaginal suppositories, and tablets. Spermicides work best when they are used with another form of birth control, such as a diaphragm or condom. You can buy a spermicide at a drugstore or grocery store without a prescription.

How does it work?

Spermicides are inserted into a woman's vagina before sex. During sex, the chemicals destroy the sperm in a man's semen before the sperm can reach an egg.

What else do I need to know about spermicide?

- Use the spermicide according to the package directions. If you are using a spermicide with a diaphragm, check the package to make sure you are buying a product made for this use.
- Douching may make the spermicide not work as well. If you feel you need to douche, wait at least 6 to 8 hours after you have had sex. Remember that douching is not a way to prevent pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections.
- Spermicides do not keep you from getting AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases. Latex or polyurethane condoms are the only method of birth control that can protect against the HIV virus and AIDS.
- Many products have side effects. A side effect is a symptom or problem that is caused by the product. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist what side effects the product may cause and what you should do if you have side effects.

If you have any questions, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Developed by RelayHealth.

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