

Woman's Condom

Comfortable and confident protection for women and men

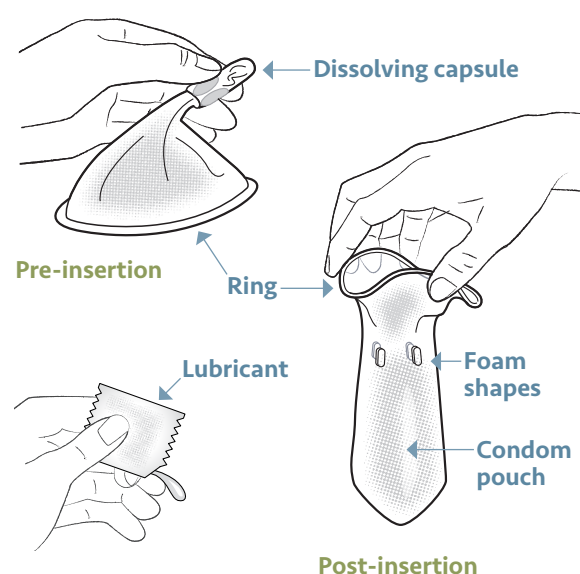
The Woman's Condom is a new female condom designed to protect women and couples from unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and to be highly pleasurable and acceptable. PATH developed the Woman's Condom by consulting with and testing the product among women and couples on four continents, including Africa, at each step of development.

The Woman's Condom was designed to meet the following performance objectives:

- Easy to handle and insert.
- Easy to use (especially for new users).
- Feels good during sex.
- Comfortable for both partners.
- Does not slip or move around during use.
- Easy to remove.

Studies show that women and men find the Woman's Condom highly satisfactory. The Woman's Condom provides good sensation during sex, is easy to use, is comfortable, and does not move around during use.

COMPONENTS OF THE WOMAN'S CONDOM



PRODUCT FEATURES OF THE WOMAN'S CONDOM

Several features distinguish the Woman's Condom from other female condom designs:

Feature	Description
Pouch	0.03 mm thin polyurethane film provides good sensation and comfort during sex for both women and men. Loose fit allows good heat transfer offering greater pleasure.
Ring	Soft, flexible polyurethane ring keeps the condom in place and gently hugs the body, providing comfortable coverage of external genitals.
Foam shapes	Four small, thin shapes of soft, hydrophilic polyurethane foam (same material used in wound-dressing applications) cling lightly to vaginal wall, ensuring stability. The foam is safe and comfortable when in contact with sensitive vaginal tissue.
Dissolving capsule	Rounded insertion capsule made of polyvinyl alcohol (same material used in contraceptive film) contains the condom pouch and aids insertion. When the capsule dissolves, the pouch expands into the vagina. Inserting a finger or the penis expands the pouch fully. The dissolved capsule leaves the woman's body naturally in her vaginal secretions after use.
Lubricant	The condom is unlubricated and supplied with water-based lubricant to be applied at point of use. This allows couples to use the amount of lubricant that is right for them. The condom is recommended for use only with the lubricant that comes packaged with the product.
Packaging	Aluminum foil laminate to keep the condom fresh.



David Jacobs

“The participants rated the Woman’s Condom better than two [other products] in terms of appearance, ease of use and overall fit, and better than [another product] in terms of feel.”¹

MAKING THE WOMAN’S CONDOM AVAILABLE

In 2008, PATH licensed the Dahua Medical Apparatus Company (Dahua) of Shanghai, China to manufacture and distribute the Woman’s Condom. Since then, Dahua has worked on production scale-up and preparation for regulatory approvals. Dahua has the manufacturing capability to produce high-standard medical devices at low cost.

Dahua received South Africa Bureau of Standards certification marking (2013), Shanghai Food and Drug Administration (2011), and CE Mark approval (2010) for the Woman’s Condom, which allows for distribution and marketing in South Africa, China, and Europe, respectively. In March 2011, Dahua submitted a dossier to the World Health Organization for technical review to determine whether the United Nations Population Fund can recommend the Woman’s Condom for bulk purchases.

PATH and Dahua aim to make the Woman’s Condom available at an affordable price to women in both the public and private sectors. PATH and Dahua will focus first on developing markets in China and sub-Saharan Africa through their Product Development Partnership, Protection Options for Women, with the eventual goal of raising awareness and building demand about the Woman’s Condom worldwide.

PRODUCT INQUIRIES

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PATH/Glenn Austin

¹ Joanis C, Beksinska M, Hart C, Tweedy K, Linda J, Smit J. Three new female condoms: which do South-African women prefer? *Contraception*. 2011;83:248–254.

PATH is an international nonprofit organization that creates sustainable, culturally relevant solutions, enabling communities worldwide to break longstanding cycles of poor health. By collaborating with diverse public- and private-sector partners, PATH helps provide appropriate health technologies and vital strategies that change the way people think and act. PATH’s work improves global health and well-being.

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