Male: Penile covering to trap sperm	Available without prescription Portable Provides protection against STIs Spermicidal condoms increase effectiveness for pregnancy and STI prevention Inexpensive compared with female condom	May decrease sensation Misuse results in failure Decreased spontaneity Latex sensitivity or allergies in a small percentage of people Improper use may lead to pregnancy or development of STI
Female: Inserted into vagina with base covering part of perineum; may be inserted 8 hours before intercourse	Female participation Made of polyurethane; no latex sensitivities and can be used with oil-based lubricants Provides protection from STIs	May be difficult to insert Noisy
Diaphragm Cervical covering to prevent sperm from reaching egg Must be used in conjunction with spermicidal jelly May be inserted 4 to 6 hours before intercourse If inserted early, should be checked for placement before coitus	Can be fitted in virgins Low failure rate when used correctly Few contraindications May be reused	High failure rate in adolescents because of inconvenience of use Requires consistent use Requires fitting and instruction by medical personnel Requires premeditated intent for sexual union Requires body awareness and comfort with touching oneself for insertion Minimal STI protection May increase incidence of urinary tract infection
Lea's shield Reusable vaginal contraceptive made of silicone; elliptical bowl placed in vagina up to 48 hours before sexual intercourse; removed 8 hours after intercourse	Non latex (silicone) Reusable Very effective in nulliparous women Simple fitting	Less effective in women who have delivered a baby Requires prescription No STI protection More effective if spermicidal cream is used May increase incidence of urinary tract infection
Cervical cap Soft rubber dome with a firm but pliable rim; fits over base of the cervix close to the junction of the cervix and vaginal fornices	May be inserted hours before intercourse Insertion and removal similar to diaphragm	Available in only four sizes Must remain in place at least 6 hours after intercourse but no longer than 48 hours Not recommended for women with abnormal Papanicolaou test result, history of toxic shock syndrome, or difficulty with proper fitting No STI protection
Chemicals		