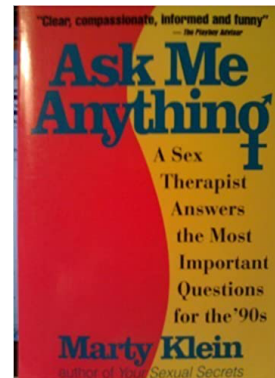


**"Ask Me Anything:
A Sex Therapist Answers
the Most Important
Questions for the '90s."**

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Question #57 from "Ask Me Anything," page 40

57. Why all the fuss—aren't all condoms the same?

No, Virginia, all condoms are not created equal. To start with, American condoms are, arguably, the best in the world—the thinnest and most reliable. That explains why we call ours “rubbers,” while the Soviets call theirs “galoshes.”

The new generation of American condoms are also loaded with options. Various brands come with lubricants; chemicals (like nonoxynol-9) that kill sperm and germs; raised bumps to increase vaginal stimulation; and a mild adhesive that helps the condom stay on the penis.

Condoms are currently made from either latex rubber or sheep intestines. Because the larger membrane of these “natural” or “skin” condoms allows microscopic viruses to pass through, they are no longer recommended.

Traditionally, condoms have come in a single size. One company is now marketing extra-larges—for, presumably, the man who thinks big. Not surprisingly, no one's marketing a size “small.”