

## Am I at risk?

- I have had UNSAFE sex (without a condom, condom not used properly, condom fell off)
- I have a new partner or many partners
- I have discharge, pain or sores in private parts
- I was named as a contact of someone else with an STI
- I can't remember if I had UNSAFE sex (eg if I was drunk)
- my partner or I have ever injected drugs
- I have had contact with someone else's blood (eg getting a tattoo, fighting).

If you said **YES** even once,  
or are thinking of having a baby...

**Get an STI CHECK!**

### Condoms Stop STIs from Spreading



- Check date and seal of the packet – old condoms break



- Open the packet carefully (don't use teeth)
- Roll on when the penis is hard



- Pinch the tip so air doesn't get trapped as you roll down



- Put on some water-based lubricant
- Hold the condom on your penis when you pull out, so semen (cum) doesn't spill out
- Throw the condom in the bin – not down the toilet.

## Where to get help

See your local health clinic or doctor

Call the **Sexual Health Helpline**

08 9227 6178 (metro)

1800 198 205 (country – free call)

For more information on STIs and HIV,  
visit [www.population.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au)

Clinic or surgery stamp here:



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# Syphilis



*Duality* by Deborah Bonar

**Our Communities  
Our Responsibility**

## What is an STI?

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are caused by germs getting inside you when you have sex with someone who has the infection.

Anyone who has vaginal, anal (bum) or oral (mouth) sex without a condom can get an STI.

***You can get private help and treatment if you have an STI.***

## Syphilis (say si-fi-lis)

**Syphilis** (also called the *pox*) is an STI that can make you sick.

Both men and women get a sore, usually on the private parts. The sore is not painful, so often you don't notice it.

The sore will go away by itself, but the syphilis germs stay in the body.

Later, if you don't get treated, you get a rash all over, including the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet.

The rash will also go away by itself, but syphilis germs still stay in the body.

People can carry syphilis germs for many, many years, and the germs can damage their brains, hearts and other parts of the body.

***You can't tell if you or another person has syphilis just by looking.***



## Syphilis in pregnancy

If a pregnant woman has syphilis and is not treated early, the baby can be born dead or badly damaged.

***Women need to get a check before or as soon as they get pregnant so syphilis can be treated and their babies don't get it.***

## What if I have it?

The only way to test for syphilis is a blood test at the clinic. If there is a sore, the clinic may check it too.

If you have syphilis, you will get medicine (antibiotics). Early treatment works really well.

***Go back to the clinic for another test to make sure you are cured.***

## People you've had sex with

If you have been treated for an STI, it is important to let your sex partner(s) know. If you want, the clinic can do it for you without telling anyone your name.

***If you or your sex partners are not treated, you might get that STI again!***

## What if I don't get treated?

***Syphilis germs keep damaging your body until you get treated.***

If you don't get treated, you will pass it on to anyone you have sex with.

Even if you have no signs of syphilis, it can still be damaging you inside (your brain and heart). It can make you very sick, and some damage can be permanent.

Syphilis can make serious health problems for babies before they are born.

***The earlier you find an STI, the easier it is to treat, and less damage is done to your body (and your baby).***

## How do I stop syphilis?

- Have an STI check if you are at risk (**Am I at risk?** See other side).
- Safe Sex - use condoms and lube **every time** you have sex.
- Stay with one partner.
- Have regular men's and women's health checks.