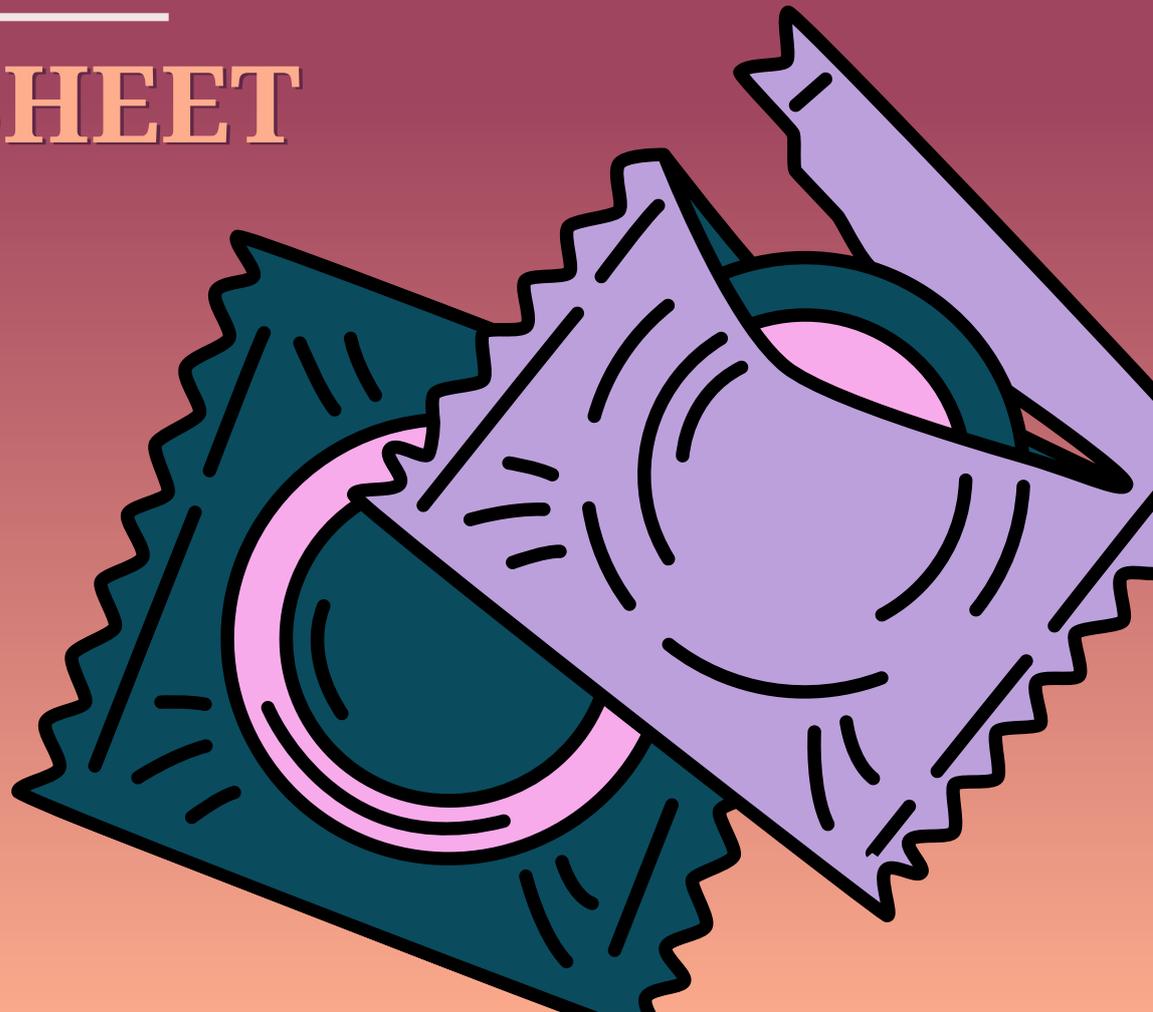


CONDOM BREAKAGE & SLIPPAGE

INFO SHEET



Condom breakage can happen to any sex worker, no matter how experienced. These incidents can be stressful and raise health concerns. Knowing how to respond and what causes condom breakage can help protect your health and keep you safer at work.

The Condom Broke During Sex: What Do I Do?

Condoms can break from time to time. Before we get into how to prevent this from happening, let's look at what you can do during a booking if it does happen.

Here's a quick guide to help you when a condom has broken or slipped off during a booking.

1 Stop and Stay Calm

- Take a moment and assess what has happened and what you need to do.

2 Remove the Condom

- If the condom is still on the penis, hold the base as it is withdrawn, to prevent it slipping off inside of you.
- If parts of the condom remain inside of you, use clean hands or gloves to remove. If you have long nails or jewellery take care to avoid scratching internal tissue, which can increase your risk of infection.
- If the condom is stuck inside, discuss with your doctor or sexual health clinic for safe removal.

3 Do Not Clean Too Much

- Wash gently around the outside.
- Do not wash inside your body or flush internally with other fluids.

4 Bear Down

- Try to bear or push down using your pelvic muscles to expel any remaining semen.
- If possible, try to urinate to protect your bladder from infection.

You can contact Respect Inc for help at any point you need support or advice following a condom breakage or slippage.

“If you have a broken or slipped condom, try to remain calm and remember this happens to most people who use condoms at some point.”

5 Choose if you want to continue

- It's your choice if you wish to continue or terminate the booking.
- The Workplace Health and Safety Act allows you to refuse work you feel may be a serious risk to your health and safety.

6 If you Continue the Booking

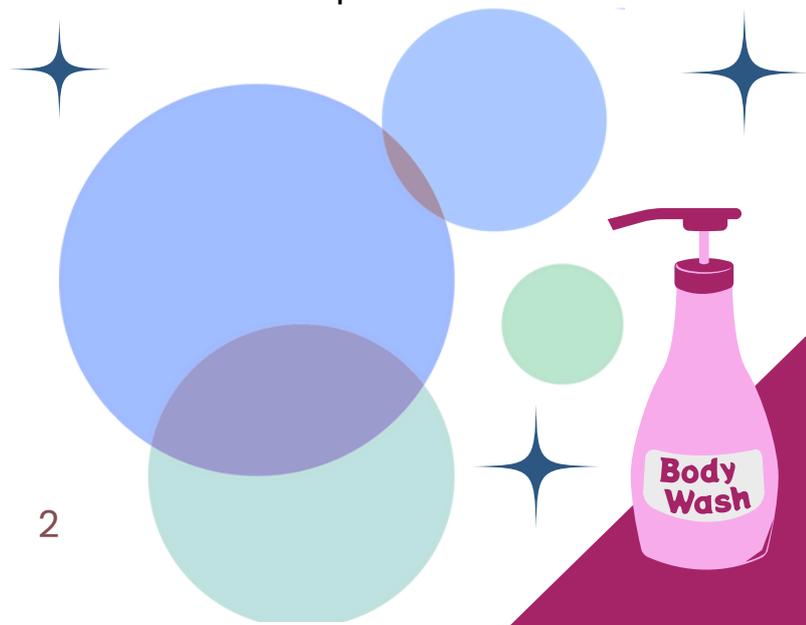
- Use a new condom.
- Or offer a different service, like hand relief or oral.

7 If You Think Stealthing has Happened

- Stop the booking.
- If the condom is intact, tie off the end in a knot to stop leakage.
- Keep the condom in a sterile or clean container, even if broken.
- Do not wash your body or move anything in the room.
- This might be sexual assault. You can report it if you want to.

8 Go to a Clinic and Pharmacy

- Go to a local pharmacy to discuss contraception, if applicable.
- Visit a sexual health clinic and tell them you have had a condom break. Discuss Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) and HIV prevention treatments.



Communication During Breakage: What Do I Say?

Condom breakage and slippage can be a challenge in sex work. However, we have included some communication strategies that will hopefully help you navigate the conversation after a breakage and better understand your rights if these occur.

"The condom just broke. We need to stop and get cleaned up."

Say this to immediately stop sex. Stopping right away sets a clear boundary and gives you space so you both can deal with the issue.

"We agreed to use a condom. I cannot continue without one."

This simple statement reinforces professional boundaries and shared responsibility for your health.

"I know this is frustrating. I'm just really concerned for both of us."

This helps diffuse anger and shows you're on the same team about staying healthy.

"I don't agree to continue without a condom. If I keep going without one, it's not consensual."

This reminds the client that any further sex without a condom breaks the consent agreement.

"I just need a minute to clean up and think."

Using a phrase like this can help end the session. It's okay to end the session if things feel unsafe.

After this, we should both get checked at a clinic."

When wrapping up, advise follow-up care in clear, simple terms. Explain that both of you need STI/HIV testing following the booking.



Communication During a Breakage: What are my Rights?

In 2024 Queensland decriminalised sex work, which means all sex work workplaces are now covered by workplace health and safety laws.

This means:

- You can stop work at any time there is a serious risk to your health and safety, i.e., a broken condom.



- Stealthing, which is not using, damaging, removing a condom during sex or continuing when you know it's damaged may constitute rape under QLD law.



- You could add a line about your boundaries and mention the new laws in your deposit policies before the booking. Something like: “Taking off a condom without my permission is not ok, and in Queensland is against the law”.
- You can also let the client know this will improve the service if you are both aware of these boundaries. “Thanks for respecting my boundaries—it means I can provide a better experience for you, too.”

Follow-up Emergency Contraception and STI Screening



What	Time	Action	Where
Emergency Contraception 72 hours	Immediately or within 3 Days (72 hrs)	Oral Medication known as LNG to pharmacists.	Over the counter at the pharmacy.
Emergency Contraception 120 hours	Immediately or within 5 days (120 hours)	Oral Medication known as UPA to pharmacists.	Over the counter at the pharmacy
HIV PeP	Immediately or within 3 Days (72 hrs)	Consult with a sexual health doctor about eligibility.	Sexual Health Clinic Rapid Testing
Baseline STI screening	Immediately if symptoms are present	This is to gain a baseline of STI status if you don't get regular STI testing every three months	Sexual Health Clinic
Follow Up STI screening	7 Days after breakage	This will test for STI following breakage if you attend testing regularly.	Sexual Health Clinic

What can cause condoms to break?

Condoms are an effective safer sex protection but they can sometimes break, even when we're being careful. Understanding what can cause breakage or slippage can help keep things safer for everyone involved. Here are some tips:

- Use enough lube to make things smooth, but not too much as excessive lubrication can lead to slippage.
- Stick to water-based or silicone-based lubricants. Oil-based lube can degrade the latex and cause problems.

Rough or prolonged thrusting can create more friction than the condom can handle. Replacing a condom if you have been using one for a long time can help prevent it from breaking.



What can cause condoms to break?

- When withdrawing, hold the rim of the condom to make sure it stays in place.
- Check the condom regularly during sex.
- Make sure to put the condom on correctly for a secure fit.
- If you're using massage oils, be careful not to get any on the condom, especially during body slides.



“Remember to put yourself first if condom breakage or slippage happens to you. When you are in control and comfortable, you can talk to your client about STI screening and what they can do to take care of their sexual health.”

- Never use more than one condom at a time. Whether it’s two condoms or an external and internal condom together, the friction can cause breakage.
- Check the expiration date – expired condoms can increase the risk of breakage.
- Store your condoms in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight to keep the latex in good condition.
- Make sure the condom fits well! A condom that’s too small can stretch and break, while one that’s too big may slip off.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this sheet is for general informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice or instruction.

GET IN TOUCH



Respect Inc offices are sex worker only drop-in spaces, designed **by sex workers for sex workers**. You can drop in for:

- One-on-one peer support, information and advocacy.
- To use the phone, internet or printer.
- Social events, networking and making connections with other sex workers.
- Training, skills sharing and workshops.
- Safer sex products at discounted prices, or freebies to get you through.
- Relax and chill out. We have tea, coffee and time for a chat.

Respect Inc spaces are confidential and non-judgmental. There are private spaces available if, for any reason, you would like more privacy while you are here.

Brisbane/Meanjin

 Monday – Thursday: 12–5pm

 Level 1, 76 Wickham St,
Fortitude Valley

 07 3835 1111

 0424 657 064

Cairns/Gimuy

 Tuesday – Thursday: 12–4pm

 7/24 Florence St, Cairns City

 07 4051 5009

 0413 571 394

Gold Coast/Yugambah & Kombumerri Land

 Tuesday – Friday: 12–4pm

 Level 1, 3 Davenport St, Southport

 07 5564 0929

 0401 969 223

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