

The Best Vibrator For You

By Michael Castleman

Sex toy marketers—including the one this site's affiliate, mypleasure.com—offers dozens of different vibrators. Which one is best? That depends on you and the kind(s) of erotic stimulation you enjoy.

All vibrators have one thing in common. They vibrate. They all contain little motors that produce pleasurable sensations in the skin—in the genitals or anywhere else around the body. Beyond that, however, vibrators vary tremendously. They come in many different shapes, sizes, colors, materials, and power sources.

Shapes And Sizes

- Realistic-looking penises, larger-than-life penises, and more abstract cylinders that don't resemble penises. These may be inserted into the vagina, or pressed into the vulva and clitoris. They may also be used for whole-body massage. And if you like, they can be pressed against the anus, or even (with lots of lubricant) inserted inside it.
- G-spot stimulators. These enable a woman to reach her own G-spot, something that's difficult to do with her own fingers. The G-spot is not really a "spot." It's an area about the size of a quarter located an inch or two inside the vagina on the front vaginal wall if the woman is standing, or the top if she is lying on her back. The G-spot is an area composed of erectile tissue similar to the tissue inside the penis. During sexual stimulation, G-spot tissue swells and often feels like a firm, domed area that protrudes a bit from the vaginal wall. Many (but not all) women find that applying a vibrator to the G-spot is highly erotic.
- Ball-topped vibrators. These are hand-held wands topped by a vibrating ball, typically the size of a plum. They are excellent for whole body massage, but

may also be used on the genitals. The world's most popular vibrator is a ball-top model, the Hitachi Magic Wand.

- Bullets. This is a general term for mini-vibrators. Bullets are typically too small to house the batteries and controls inside them, so these elements are contained in a separate unit wired to the bullet. Small and compact, bullets are a good choice for travel. They may also be slipped inside underwear to provide a little secret "buzz" in social situations without anyone knowing. Remote-control bullets—great fun at parties—allow someone else to "buzz" the person wearing the bullet.
- Double-Shaft Vibes. In addition to the typical penis- or cylinder-shaped toy, these vibrators have a small extra protrusion extending from the middle of the shaft for clitoral stimulation while the main shaft is inside the vagina.
- Tongues. The base looks like any phallic vibrator, but the top flattens out to become tongue shaped. Turn it on, and the tongue wags back and forth for a reasonable approximation of cunnilingus. (Be sure to use plenty of lubricant.)
- Butterflies or vulva vibrators. Instead of a cylindrical shape, these are more flattened like a pancake. They are not meant for vaginal insertion, but rather, for pressing into the vulva. Some models come with straps that wrap around the thighs to hold them in place over the clitoris.
- Unique vibes. These come in unusual shapes and sizes, but still vibrate and can be easily pressed against the clitoris or vulva.

Materials

Vibrators may be made of hard or soft plastic, jelly, or Cyberskin, a plastic material that feels similar to human skin. At this writing, the one thing vibrators are *not* made from is latex rubber, so if you're allergic to latex, you should have no problem with vibrators.

Power Sources

There are three possibilities: traditional batteries, rechargeable batteries, or plug-in wall current. The basic distinction is batteries vs. plug-in. Each has advantages and disadvantages. Battery-powered vibrators generally weigh less than plug-in vibes.

They are also more portable and versatile. They can be used in many places were wall current is unavailable: in cars, boats, theaters, or outdoors. Use your imagination. But the batteries must be changed or recharged periodically, and may lose power when you want it most. Wall current vibrators generally have more powerful motors so they deliver more intense sensations. Vibes powered by rechargeable batteries are generally more powerful than traditional battery models.

Speed(s)

Some vibrators have only one speed. Others are adjustable and multi-speed. Smaller more portable vibrators tend to have just one speed. Larger, more elaborate models often are multi-speed.

Waterproof?

Most vibrators are *not* waterproof. Because of the danger of electric shock and short-circuiting, they should not be used in the tub or shower. However, some vibrators are waterproof. The electrical components are carefully sealed within the housing. Waterproof vibes can be used in the tub or shower, or in hot tubs and swimming pools.

Kits And Attachments

Some vibrators come with multiple attachments that fit over the vibrating head. The various attachments alter the look of the vibrator and the sensations it provides.

Vibrators As Dildos

When turned off, any phallic or cylindrical vibrator can be used as a dildo for vaginal or anal insertion. Use plenty of lubricant.

Solo Or Couple Play?

Surveys show that while most vibrators are used by women solo, about 10 percent of American couples now use vibrators in partner sex. Lovers can take turns using vibrators on each other for whole-body massage. For genital play, many women insist on handling the vibrator themselves—the clitoris is *very* sensitive to touch, especially the intense sensations vibrators provide. The same goes for the penis, scrotum, and anus. But while the woman, or man, is pressing the vibe where it provides intense pleasure, they often enjoy being held and caressed by their lovers.

The "Best" Vibrator?

There is no "best" vibrator for everyone. It's really up to you. Personal preferences differ, which is why sex toy marketers carry large selections. But factors to consider include: shape, size, material, insertability (and if so where?), your sexual fantasies, the power supply, and whether or not you want a waterproof model.

Start with a model you find aesthetically pleasing that meets your needs for size, shape, power supply, etc. From there, consider adding others to your collection. Surveys show that most women who own vibrators have one or two vibrators, but a surprisingly large proportion own several. Compared with other forms of entertainment, vibrators are quite economical. For less than the price of one restaurant dinner, a vibrator can provides hours—or weeks, even years—of erotic pleasure.

For more on vibrators, visit GreatSexAfter40.com's favorite sex toy store, MyPleasure.com.