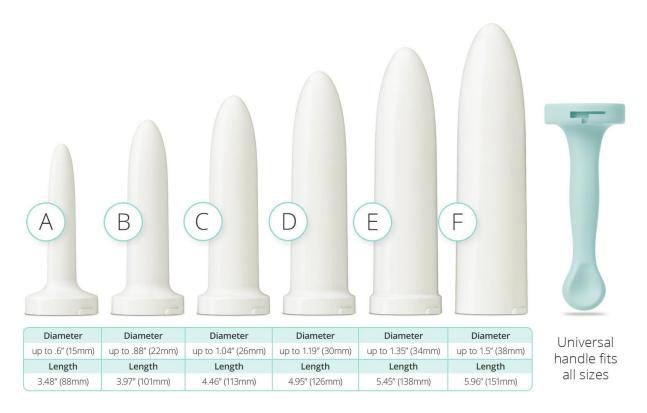
# **Vaginal Dilator Set**

6 gradual sizes plus an ergonomic solid-lock handle. BPA, Latex, and Phthalates free.

Smooth, comfortable medical-grade plastic. Made in the USA—patent pending design.

### Hopeandher.com/products/vaginal-dilator-set (\$44.95)



#### This information will teach you how to use a vaginal dilator:

After menopause, the vagina becomes dry, less elastic, narrower, and shorter. Some cancer treatments can also cause these changes within the vagina. To help you with these changes, your healthcare provider has suggested that you use a vaginal dilator and start doing vaginal dilator therapy. Vaginal dilator therapy is a resource you canuse throughout your life.

It will help to:

- Allow your healthcare provider to perform a more thorough pelvic exam.
- Make it more comfortable for you to be examined.
- Prevent your vagina from becoming too narrow.
- Keep your vagina more elastic.
- Allow you to have vaginal sex with less discomfort.

#### **Getting Started:**

- Select a time and place in which you can have privacy and feel relaxed.
- Lie down on your back with your knees bent at a 45-degree angle. They should be shoulder width apart. If you find this to be a problem, you can place pillows under your knees for support. Rest your feet comfortably on the bed or couch. Make sure you can easily touch the opening of your vagina. Use a hand mirror if you need it.

#### **Inserting a Vaginal Dilator:**

Inserting a vaginal dilator is simple and should not cause any discomfort if you do it slowly and gradually.

Start with the smallest size dilator in your kit. You can increase the size over time.

- Apply lubricant to the dilator and the opening of your vagina. Use a water-based lubricant. Do not usepetroleum jelly (Vaseline®).
- Slowly insert the round end of the dilator into your vagina at a flat or slightly downward angle.
- Continue to insert the dilator until you feel slight discomfort or muscle tension, then stop. The dilatorshould feel snug but not painful when you insert it into your vagina. Never use force or cause pain.
- Do a set of Pelvic Floor Therapy exercises. If it is still difficult to insert the dilator after doing pelvic floorexercises, take some deep breaths, then refocus on relaxing your pelvic floor muscles and try to insert the dilator a little further. Over time, you may be able to get the dilator in a little bit further.
- Leave the dilator in place for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Gently push it back and forth to stretch the length of your vagina.
- Gently rotate the dilator in wide circles to stretch the width of your vagina. Repeat this at the back, middle, and opening of your vagina. Some women find it helpful to work with more than one size dilator.
- Remove the dilator and wash it with hot, soapy water. Dry it with a clean towel. Store it as instructed inkit.

#### **After You Are Done:**

You may have a small amount of bleeding when you use the dilator. This is normal. A panty liner will beenough to manage this. If you have a lot of bleeding, such as bleeding that soaks up a sanitary napkin, call your healthcare provider.

If you get urinary tract infections (UTIs) often, you may want to urinate after dilator therapy. If you haveany questions or problems, talk with your healthcare provider at your next appointment.

## **Goals of Vaginal Dilator Therapy:**

- The goal is to slowly increase the size of your dilators, and if possible, reach the largest size without any discomfort. When you can insert one size of a dilator completely into your vagina without any discomfort, it is time for you to start using the next size up. Usually 10 minutes per day for each size, for 2 weeks or until that size is comfortable.
- You should practice dilator therapy several times per week (i.e., every other day). The more you do it, themore you will benefit. If you don't have time during the week to practice, you should still do your pelvic floor exercises daily.
- If you forget to do your dilator therapy or don't have time one week, don't give up. Try to start again as soon as possible. Developing a plan or routine for yourself can help you be successful.

## **Vaginal Moisturizers**

- Vaginal moisturizers are products that increase moisture in your vagina. Use vaginal moisturizers regularly to promote vaginal health and comfort.
- The best time to use a vaginal moisturizer is right before bedtime. This is because it absorbs best whileyou are lying flat and sleeping.

**Empowering Women. Restoring Hope.**