

Is He Normal. Down There?

Even if you know your way around a guy's sexual equipment, stuff can spring up (sorry!) that may leave you stumped.

BY BETHANY HEITMAN

No two guys are the same—and that goes double for their penises. In fact, there are so many different shapes, sizes, and skin tones that it's tough to know what's normal when you're introduced to a man's package. So we went to experts with your burning queries about dudes' members. These candid answers should clear up any confusion so you can just enjoy.

Is it weird for his penis to be a few different colors?

Not usually. Some men have a purplish tint at the head of their penis, along with discolorations on the shaft. That's because there are so many blood vessels that they sometimes show through the skin. Another reason for multihues: "Lots of guys have circumcision scar tissue on the underside of their penis that turns a darker color," explains Harry Fisch, MD, professor of clinical urology at Columbia University New York-Presbyterian Hospital and coauthor of Size Matters. However, he adds, you do need to be concerned if the discoloration is red or pink, which could be a sign of a rash. If you see this on your guy, urge him to call his doctor and go in to have it checked out before the next time you have sex.

Does a curved penis signal a problem?

It depends on the severity of the curve. If it's slight, it can actually be a benefit. A penis can grow slightly curved in any direction, and that curve, along with the perfect angle of entry, can make it easier for him to hit your G-spot, says Sadie Allison, author of Tickle His Pickle: Your Hands-On Guide to Penis Pleasing. Guys most commonly curve up or to the side; for a man who arcs skyward, missionary position is your best bet for hitting that pleasure spot. If he has a little side curvature going on, try this: Lie on your side in a near-fetal position—you should face the direction he bends to—then have him kneel behind your butt and enter you.

If there's a major bend—like approaching 90 degrees—there's a problem. "A severe case of Peyronie's disease is the buildup of scar tissue that causes an extreme curve in the penis, and it can be very painful," Dr. Fisch says. Though not very common, it can happen if there is a series of minor injuries to his shaft that can occur during rough sex—even without his knowing it. In addition to the striking curvature, some guys may occasionally have difficulty becoming and staying erect.

Is there a standard size for testicles, and should they be identical?

"His testicles should be approximately the size of walnuts in the shells," Dr. Fisch explains. If they're smaller, it could be a sign of low testosterone, which may mean he'll have fertility issues later on. And they should be the same size, but it's common (and okay) for one to hang slightly lower than the other.

Some guys have smooth shafts, and others have tons of veins. What's normal?

There's no standard. A guy with thin skin will look veinier, while thickskinned guys may have few veins, if any, that are noticeable. It also depends on his state of arousal. "The penile blood vessels are what help get him erect, so they often become more prominent when he's aroused," says Jane Bogart, director for student the penis is kept healthy. Most men also get about eight erections at night, and they don't have to be having X-rated dreams. Again, it's just their members' way of staying fit.

Do uncircumcised guys feel pleasure in the same way that circumcised dudes do?

Yes, basically, though they may have more sensitivity. The foreskin protects the head of an uncut guy's penis when

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wellness at Columbia University Medical Center and author of Sexploration: The Ultimate Guide to Feeling Truly Great in Bed.

How many erections per day should a guy have?

It should be more than zero, but beyond that, there's no specific number. And even when he does get wood, it doesn't necessarily mean he's turned on. "Often, a guy won't even be thinking about sex and he'll get an erection," Dr. Fisch says. The reason: a surge of blood, which is one way the tissue in he's soft. When he gets turned on, that skin retracts, which means the ultrasensitive area under the tip is just as exposed as that of a guy who's gone under the knife. "There are a ton of nerves in the foreskin and under the head of the penis...and when he's uncut, this area is protected throughout the day," Bogart says. "So when he does get touched there, it can feel more intensely sensitive." That means you may need to use a softer stroke if your guy still has his foreskin.



Men have different levels of hardness, and it doesn't always have to do with how turned on he is. In fact, you may even notice that his stiffness varies during the same session, depending on what you're doing and how long you've been doing it, Bogart explains.

If he seems to be softer all the time lately, it could be due to a number of outside factors. "Stress, whether he's on medication, and his level of fatigue can all affect his rigidity," Allison says. As long as he's firm enough to penetrate and you're both happy with the results, don't sweat it.



What He Freaks About

We got real men to spill their south-of-theborder insecurities not an easy feat!

 "I like to maintain a clean shave down thereit just feels better to me when it's totally groomed. But I wonder whether girls think it looks stupid and porn-starish to be completely shaved and if I should leave some hair so I don't come off as being too concerned about it."

- "I worry about not lasting long enough during sex. I'm sure every guy has finished too quickly at least once in their lifetime, but it can still be really embarrassing and make me feel inadequate, like I can't give a girl what she needs."
- "I'm really insecure about my boxer-short boners. I often walk around my girlfriend's apartment in just my underwear, and sometimes the big guy feels like a salute. I get concerned she's going to think that I'm horny all the time."
- "When I first hook up with a woman, I get really nervous about meeting her size requirements. It's not that I think I'm too small-I just don't know what she's used to. I want to be the right size for her." -Adam, 24

-REPORTED BY NIKI EVANS