

# Lunar

## Pepper's Parties



# All About Lube!

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In the past 2 years of my "spicy retail" experience, the thing that has baffled me most has absolutely been certain reactions from customers when lube is suggested. I've had reactions that have ranged from disgust to total offense, particularly from female clients, which just blows my mind! I am a firm believer that if you are engaging in any kind of sexual play, you should be using a lubricant.

Why is lube important? There are multiple correct answers to this question. To start, I would like to state the obvious - friction protection. The tissues that make up vulvas, phalluses, and anuses are extremely sensitive, especially to friction, and if you are lacking in glide it can cause discomfort or even damage in more intense cases. Vaginas and most un-cut penises create natural lubrication, yes, but adding even a drop of lubricant can heighten more than just your sexual experience - it can even heighten your overall sensation. If you are someone that uses condoms in their sexual activities, lubricant can make a world of difference for the wearer as far as comfortability and sensation as well as decrease the risk of the condom breaking.

Lubricant is more than just friction protection these days, many companies make lubricants that warm or cool or even buzz or stimulate. There are even lubricants that have flavor to enhance your oral play or lubes that contain things like CBD or Jojoba oil that will help relax your pelvic muscles for total bliss. There are 3 main types of lubricants: water-based, silicone-based, and hybrids. That being said, not all lubricants are created equal or are appropriate for all kinds of play.

## Water-Based Lubricants

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Water-based lubricants are your most affordable, accessible, and versatile types of lubricants. These kinds of lubes are compatible for all kinds of condoms and toy materials and are ideal for use with silicone toys. Since their main ingredient is water, they can "dry out" so to speak. This occurs because the lube has lost water via evaporating due to friction or even absorption through the skin, leaving you with the remaining lube ingredients that often feel sticky or tacky. This "drying out" has a straightforward fix - just add water! Yep, instead of reapplying your lube and creating a thick and sticky mess from the leftover ingredients, you can totally re-hydrate your water-based lube with regular 'ol water and it will slick right back up. When the water from your lube is absorbed by the skin, this also helps provide hydration to promote the elasticity to your skin to help with any kind of stretching the skin will need. This is particularly helpful for beginner anal play.

Water-based lube is also super easy to clean off any surface and won't stain any clothes or sheets, just give them a wash and everything will be as good as new! This kind of lube can also be flavored for an edible lubricant that can provide some extra glide as well as sweet taste for oral play or even as a penetrative lubricant since they often are made with sugar-alternatives to prevent causing infection. As with most things, there are some cons to consider when deciding what lubricant will meet your needs the best. Many individuals dislike water-based lubricant because these kinds of lubes do require rehydration, or describe the texture of water-based lubes as "slimy."

Those who have sensitivities or are allergic to particular ingredients may need to be more mindful when selecting a lubricant that is right for them. Water-based lubricants often contain longer lists of ingredients in order to make the lube slippery, but many companies also offer more hypoallergenic water-based lubes that are more mindful of the ingredients that go into the lubricant - like [System JO's Agape](#) or [Wicked's Aqua Sensitive](#). Overall, water-based lubes are affordable, best for use with silicone or rubber toys, cause little-to-no-staining, often provide a more natural feel, and can last a long time with proper re-hydration.



## Silicone-Based Lubricants

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"How can a toy and a lube be made of silicone?" This is a question I have been asked a handful of times in my experience of working in spicy retail. It's simple, there are 2 major forms of silicone: liquid silicone and solid silicone. They are both still silicone, and the reason you should not use silicone lubricant on silicone toys. There is a term in chemistry, "like dissolves like," and that is exactly what happens with liquid silicone on solid silicone. In simple terms, liquid silicone will degrade or melt solid silicone, so it is best to steer clear of using silicone lubes like [Pjur](#) or [Sliquid Silver](#) with your silicone toys.

That being said, silicone lube is excellent for hard and non-porous materials like metal or glass and is even compatible with most condoms, but always test your lube with your condoms to ensure they do not react to one another. Silicone lube is super slick and silky, some describe it as feeling more oily, and commonly does not need to be frequently reapplied as silicone molecules are too large to be absorbed by the skin. Unlike water-based lubricants, silicone lubricants cannot be re-hydrated. So when you begin to feel that you need more glide, you simply reapply your desired amount of lube.

These lubricants are excellent for any kind of skin to skin contact and leave no sticky or tacky residue on the skin. Silicone lubes, especially high-quality ones, often have limited ingredients, which makes them excellent for those who are prone to allergies. Some silicone lubes have as little as 2 ingredients: dimethicone and dimethiconol, which is simply the chemical makeup of liquid silicone. Some brands like [Überlube](#) use moisturizing ingredients like vitamin E in their silicone lubricants since there is no water in the lube to hydrate the skin. This kind of lube is also the most expensive out of the 3 main types of lube, but even just 1oz of silicone lube can go a long way - a little dab will do 'ya!

Since these lubes are non-water-soluble, cleaning them off of surfaces can be a bit of a hassle. On fabric surfaces, they can create a grease-like stain and for solid surfaces like tile or hardwood, they can make the surface incredibly slick and take a good deal of effort to fully clean. In summary, silicone lubes are incredibly slick while feeling almost as if there is hardly anything there at all and long-lasting, but they are not compatible with soft toys, can be expensive, and hard to clean.



Hybrid lubes are often a mid-range price and most commonly a water-based lubricant with just enough silicone to give them that longer-lasting slickness, but not be as nearly damaging to softer toy materials like solid silicone. It does not take a lot of product to create a nice thin and slick layer of glide like a silicone-based, but it is safe for use with most toys and easy to clean like a water-based. Some can even be re-hydrated like a water-based, though they also pose the same issue as a water-based for those who are allergy-prone. Hybrid lubricants, unlike silicone lubricants, can even have flavors added to them like [Sensuva's Ultra Thick Hybrid](#) available in flavors like blueberry muffin, cotton candy, and more to provide extra slip and slide for oral play.

Though a water-silicone hybrid is most common, coconut oil hybrids have gained popularity. Many people choose to use coconut oil as their personal lubricant since it is natural and hydrating, but kitchen-grade coconut oil is not very friendly to vaginas. Vaginas naturally are more acidic, while coconut oil is more alkaline as well as anti-bacterial, so frequent use of coconut oil as a penetrative lubricant can disrupt vaginal pH and internal microbiome. Pure coconut oil is also very reactive to latex, so coconut oil can dissolve latex condoms and increase the risk of breaking.

This love of using coconut oil as lube has led some companies to create coconut oil hybrid lubes, like [System Jo's Coconut Hybrid](#). These lubes often have a creamy consistency and a faint coconut-y aroma, giving the properties of coconut oil that people love while ensuring it is safe to use as a penetrative lubricant, as well as being easier to clean than pure coconut oil. System Jo's Coconut Hybrid is also more latex friendly than pure coconut oil, but always test your lube with your condoms to minimize risk. I often refer to a hybrid lubricant as "the best of both worlds" as they offer some of the best qualities of a water-based lube as well as the secondary base that it is mixed with.



## Conclusion

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Every body has unique needs and there is a lube out there for everyone. In some cases, you buy a lubricant to try and you instantly fall in love, but like most things in the adult industry, finding the right lube to meet your personal preferences is more trial and error. Another thing to keep in mind is that different kinds of lubes are best for different uses.

Though a thick water-based lube may not be ideal for a quickie, it is excellent for beginner anal play or rough intercourse due to its hydration and thick cushion. A silicone lubricant may be amazing for person-to-person intercourse or even shower play, it may not be ideal for those who experience vaginal dryness or beginner anal penetration.

There is no shame in using lubricant or even needing lubricant, everyone who participates in sexual activities can benefit from using a lube. Lubricant can absolutely elevate your sexual experience and pleasure and there is a whole world of different lubes to explore for all kinds of sexy fun! To summarize, water-based is affordable and toy safe, silicone-based is luxurious and slippery, and hybrid takes the greatness of both into one bottle.

