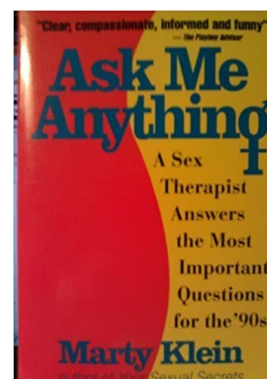


**"Ask Me Anything:  
A Sex Therapist Answers  
the Most Important  
Questions for the '90s."**

**Author Marty Klein**

PhD, Certified Sex  
Therapist and Licensed Marriage  
and Family Therapist for 34 years



**Question #26 from "Ask Me Anything," page 23**

**26. Although my vagina smells bad, my new boyfriend likes to give me oral sex. What should I do? Should I use one of those female deodorants?**

Since your boyfriend isn't complaining, how do you know that your vagina smells bad? I don't like the smell of broccoli, but that doesn't mean *it* smells bad.

The vagina is a self-cleansing organ, like the eye. A healthy one is clean, and it smells like living tissue—not like flowers or “spring,” as the deodorant ads imply. Your boyfriend may *love* your healthy smell and taste, even if you don't.

If you believe you smell bad, see a gynecologist, who will either treat whatever vaginal problem you have or tell you you're healthy. Either way, do *not* let *any* female deodorant product within 100 yards of your vagina. Because they alter the vagina's delicate chemical balance, *they can be dangerous*.