

GAMMA PIERCING



AFTERCARE & JEWELRY MANUAL

Thank you for choosing Gamma Piercing, and congratulations on your new body piercing! While it may feel like you've gotten through the hard part, the real challenge with any piercing is not the procedure- it's the healing process. The experts at Gamma Piercing have put together this Aftercare and Jewelry User's Manual to guide you through the healing process of your piercing and the maintenance of your beautiful new jewelry.

PART ONE: AFTERCARE

Our Healing Philosophy

Our philosophy is simple: let your body do its job!

The success of your body piercing depends on your commitment to an aftercare regimen. If your piercing is neglected, or irritated by bad habits like playing with the jewelry, it will almost certainly fail to heal properly. You must allow your body to heal without interrupting its natural healing process.

Chemicals will not heal your piercing, only your body will. This means we do not suggest the use of harsh chemicals, soaps, essential oils or ointments. From research and experience, we have found that strong chemicals are counter productive and delay healing. Our aftercare utilizes body neutral wound wash saline.



The Gamma Piercing Simple Cleaning Guide

Do the following steps 2 - 3 times per day:

Step One: Thoroughly wash your hands

Step Two: Spray your piercing's entrance and exit holes with wound wash saline solution

Step Three: Wipe any crusty discharge away from the jewelry with non-woven gauze soaked with saline

Step Four: Pat the piercing dry with non-woven gauze

Once daily: rinse your piercing with fresh, warm water in the shower. This should loosen any hard crusty matter that forms on the jewelry. After your shower, do a saline cleaning.

Oral Piercing Specifics

Oral piercings can benefit from the introduction of cold to soothe swelling. Drinking ice water can be very helpful. Elevating your head with an extra pillow while you sleep can also help with swelling. Please avoid any activity that would result in someone else's body fluid getting into the piercing, including sharing food or beverages. Feel free to rinse your mouth out with filtered or bottled water regularly.

Tips and Tricks

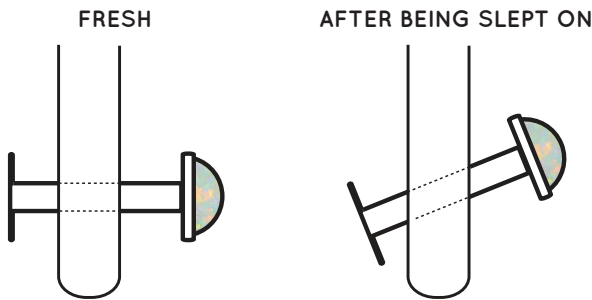
Clean bedding can help prevent complications. A clean t-shirt over your pillow, changed regularly until your pillowcase is washed, is strongly encouraged for ear and facial piercings.

Travel pillows can help you avoid sleeping directly on your ear while healing an ear piercing.

Healthy bodies heal piercings best. Gamma Piercing encourages our clients to make every effort to live a healthy lifestyle, guided by a medical professional.

The Importance of Downsizing

Most piercings are started with jewelry that is a little longer or larger in diameter to accommodate for both cleaning and swelling. Once the initial swelling has subsided, please visit Gamma Piercing for a follow-up consultation. We typically recommend that you visit 4 to 6 weeks after your piercing. If your piercing is slept on or otherwise irritated, it can cause a permanent distortion in the angle of the piercing. We call this distortion “drift”. Downsizing your jewelry in a timely manner can prevent drift from happening. Jewelry fees apply.



Problems? Questions?

Most problems are NOT infection. Please do not hesitate to contact Gamma Piercing for free consultations whenever you have the slightest concern about your piercing. We can't help if we don't hear from you, so please contact us!

When to Seek Medical Assistance

While infection is rare, it is absolutely essential to seek professional medical assistance at the very first sign of infection. Symptoms include: sudden onset of swelling, excessive bleeding or discharge of yellow, green, or dark colored fluid. Some redness is normal, but excessive redness and/or red stripes coming from the piercing site are indicative of serious problems. Fever, upset stomach, dizziness, or vomiting may also be signs of infection. Should any of these symptoms occur, immediately contact a doctor or medical professional.

Blood Donation

Some states place blood donation restrictions on those who have received a body piercing or other forms of body art. The State of Michigan requires us to inform you that a piercing client may be able to donate blood within the standard deferral period if they present a copy of their client record to the blood donor facility, based on the local blood donor facility policy. If you would like a copy of your release form, please do not hesitate to ask.

What to Avoid

Avoid touching your piercing with unwashed hands. Contamination of the piercing site from touching with unwashed hands can result in infection!

Do not remove your jewelry during the healing process, unless instructed to do so by a medical professional. Even healed piercings will shrink when jewelry is removed, potentially resulting in loss of the piercing.

Prevent makeup, health and beauty products, suntan lotion and other cosmetics from touching the piercing site or jewelry.

Harsh chemicals, including “natural” aftercare products like tea tree oil, are suggested against. We only recommend sterile Wound Wash Saline, containing two ingredients: water and 0.9% sodium chloride.

It is important to avoid swimming while healing a new piercing. Swimming can result in infected or irritated piercings.

Do not rotate, twist, or turn jewelry while healing. This damages your piercing channel.



PART TWO: JEWELRY USER'S MANUAL

You have just purchased a piece of jewelry that meets the exacting standards upon which Gamma Piercing insists. This means your jewelry is made from safe, implant-grade materials, 14 karat or higher gold, platinum, niobium, or glass. Your jewelry has been polished to a pristine, mirror finish. It has been designed by piercers, or with input from piercers, for comfort and piercing site compatibility. If you have selected gemstones, these gemstones have been meticulously set by skilled jewelers. Gemstone settings are guaranteed to be free from manufacturer's defects. The piercers at Gamma often personally inspect the jewelry production facilities of our manufacturers. This is to insure that only the highest quality, safest jewelry is being sold to our valued clients.

Your jewelry, like any high end product, requires some simple upkeep and maintenance. Care should be taken to keep ends tightly attached to shafts.

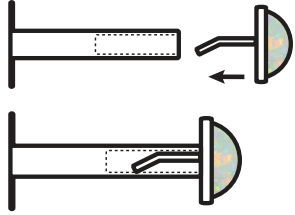
Gamma makes every effort to put jewelry on tightly, but only you can keep it that way!

□ Threadless Ends (“Push-Pin” style)

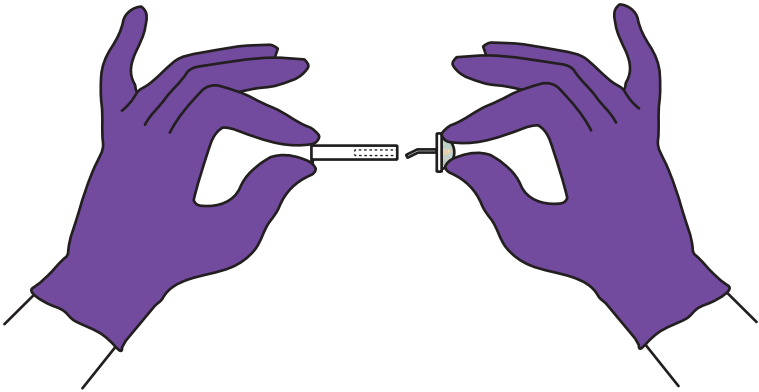
Gently bend or kink your threadless end.



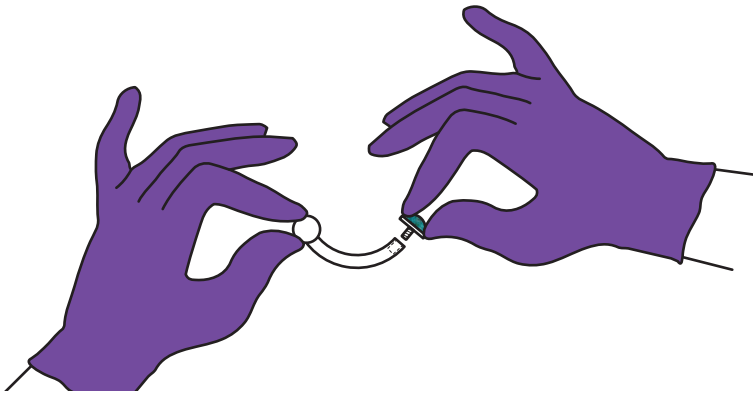
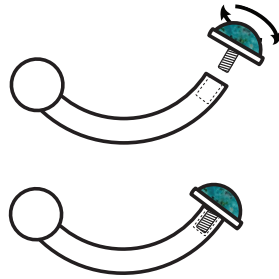
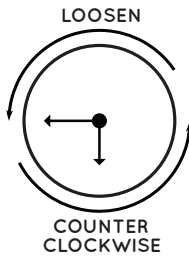
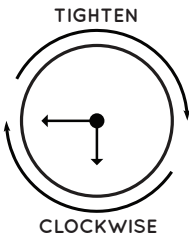
This tension holds the end in place. You may even hear a faint “snap” as the end locks into place.



To remove, pull the end and post in opposite directions.



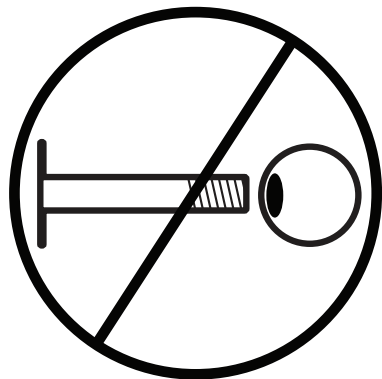
□ Threaded Jewelry



Hold the back securely; gloves can help! Check the tightness daily to help prevent losing jewelry.

Avoid externally threaded jewelry!

**It isn't safe.
It looks bad.**

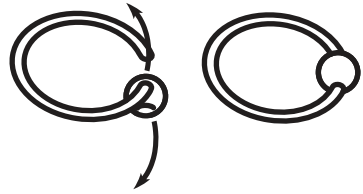


How to Use Captive Bead Rings

The ball does not screw in, it's held in with tension.

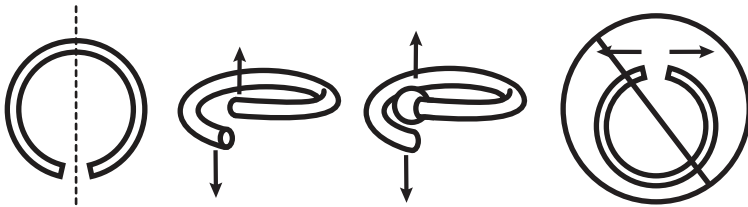


It's easiest to place one indent of the bead on one side of the ring and pull the ring onto the other indent.



How to Use Fixed Bead or Continuous Rings

Rings should be opened by S-bending along the center of the ring.



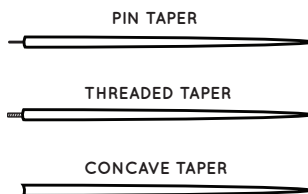
How to use an Insertion Taper

An insertion taper is a tool we can use to guide jewelry into a piercing. The insertion taper starts out thin, then tapers to the same thickness of the jewelry. The end of the insertion taper typically has a thin link or threading to connect the jewelry to the taper. **Tapers may only be used on one person.** Sharing tapers or body jewelry can result in infection or disease transferal. Don't risk it!

Steps to use an insertion taper:

- Wash your hands with soap and water. If you have disposable gloves, don them.
- Clean the insertion taper with soap and water, or wipe it thoroughly with 70% isopropyl alcohol.
- Clean the piercing site. Typically this will be with soap and water, but contact Gamma Piercing for site specific instructions.
- Gently guide the thin part of the taper through the channel of the piercing. This should not hurt at all. If this is uncomfortable, remove the insertion taper and see a piercer as soon as possible.
- Follow the jewelry behind the insertion taper, screwing it on completely to the taper (if threaded) butting it up against the taper using the link portion (if threadless), or settling it into the indented portion (if concave).

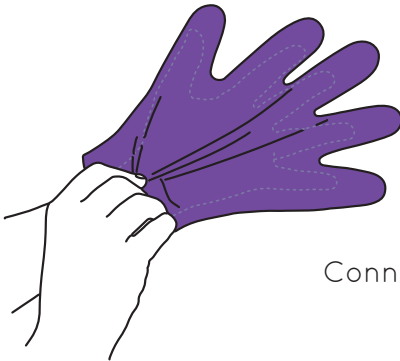
Follow the instructions for threaded or threadless jewelry on the preceding pages to get the end on your jewelry.



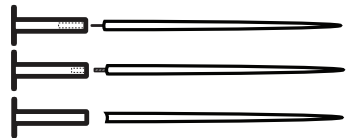
Clean the skin, jewelry, and taper.



Put on gloves; nitrile is preferred (latex free).

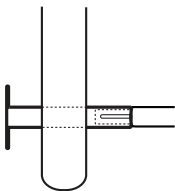


Connect your jewelry to the taper by pressure or threading.

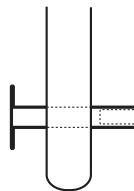


Gently guide the lubricated taper through the piercing channel - don't force it!

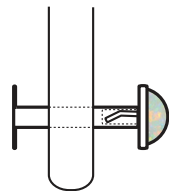
Insert jewelry



Remove taper



Attach end



Using Tools on Your Jewelry

It is important to note that using tools to tighten ends or open rings can damage the jewelry in the process. Whenever possible, wrapping tools like hemostats or ring openers with sterile bandages is a good idea. Metal on metal contact can result in scratches or other damage that will necessitate replacing your jewelry. When in doubt, see the piercing staff of Gamma Piercing for an in-person tutorial on safe jewelry insertion and removal.

Gemstone Maintenance

The gemstones that Gamma Piercing sells are expertly hand set by the best jewelers in the body jewelry business. Protect this investment! Prong set gemstones can get cloudy if makeup is applied near the gemstone. Crusty material which develops during healing can also find its way into prong set gemstones if proper aftercare isn't followed!

Many of our customers like to buy several pieces of jewelry. In addition to giving them the option to change their jewelry regularly, this also allows them to clean their jewelry at home while they are wearing something else. A small jewelry ultrasonic is a great way of cleaning out your jewelry and keeping it looking beautiful. Not all gemstones should be cleaned in an ultrasonic, though. Please contact your piercer before cleaning your own jewelry!

Anodized Jewelry

New titanium and niobium jewelry can have its color changed through a process called anodization. Gamma Piercing offers this service as a way to make your jewelry look unique. Unfortunately, the color of anodized jewelry can have a shelf life depending on the size and shape of the jewelry, as well as the lifestyle of the person wearing it. Anodization will slowly fade with time.



About Gamma Piercing

Gamma Piercing is the brainchild of husband and wife team Jef Saunders and Laura Leonard. Our Mission is to offer the safest, friendliest piercing experience available.

Our facility was built on the principle that single use, sterile tools and implements are the safest for both client and piercer. That's why each piercing is performed with single use, sterile items that are disposed of immediately after the piercing. We also believe that you have the right to remove and insert your own jewelry, so we provide tools and tutorials for our clients to do just that.

It is important to us that our clients have the peace of mind that comes with knowing their piercers are members of the Association of Professional Piercers, so our full time piercers are always members.

Finally, Gamma Piercing is dedicated to being a safe, friendly place to ask questions about your piercing, get guidance in jewelry selection, piercing placement, healing and aftercare. We love our clients, and we want you to be healthy, happy, and shiny!



Piercing Information



Take a photo for your records!

Date:

Piercing:

Healing Time:

Piercer:

Notes:

Jewelry Information

Style:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Curved Barbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Bead Ring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retainer | <input type="checkbox"/> Circular Barbell | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flatback | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface Barbell | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fixed back | <input type="checkbox"/> Captive Bead Ring | |

Thread Style, if Applicable:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internally Threaded | <input type="checkbox"/> Push-Pin Threadless |
|--|--|

Gauge:

Length / Diameter:

Other:

Material:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Titanium F136 | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Titanium F67 | <input type="checkbox"/> Borosilicate Glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steel F138 | <input type="checkbox"/> Soda Lime Glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Niobium | <input type="checkbox"/> Fused Quartz Glass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14k Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18k Gold | |

Please join us for your **Free Follow-up Consultation** 4 weeks from the date of the piercing, or whenever necessary.


Approximate Downsize* Date:

*Note - downsizing of jewelry is essential to the long term well-being of your piercing. Jewelry and service fees will apply.



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