



PEEL WORKS NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- * New needles and injection equipment.
- * Containers for the safe disposal of used needles and injection equipment.
- * Safe disposal of used needles and equipment from clients.
- * Safer piercing kits, including information on before and after-care.
- * Information about safer drug use.
- * Presentations on harm reduction, safer piercing and program services.
- * Information about safer sex as well as free condoms and lube.
- * Referrals to Peel Public Health's Healthy Sexuality clinics for:
 - *Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing, including the HIV Rapid Test*
 - *Hepatitis B and C testing*
 - *Hepatitis B vaccinations*
 - *Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment*
- * Referrals to other agencies for support and treatment.

All services are free and confidential

For more information about our services, please contact us at
Cell: 647-225-1623 Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

www.peelneedleexchange.ca

Peel Public Health does not recommend or endorse
body piercing in a non-professional setting.

Adapted with permission from the AIDS Committee
of London's Safe Points Campaign.

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 **Region of Peel**
Working for you
Public Health

SKIN + STEEL

KNOW THE DEAL



Understand your risks and rights!

 **Region of Peel**
Working for you
Public Health

BODY PIERCING BEFORE-CARE

Some tips before you get a piercing:

- * Make sure you are comfortable with the artist and the studio is clean.
- * Ensure the artist answers your questions and clearly explains the procedure to you.
- * You want a professional to do the piercing. Ask to see the artist's portfolio.
- * Ask to see the spore test (sterilizer) certificate. Ensure the date on the certificate is within 2 weeks of the current date.
- * Make sure the artist is wearing new latex/vinyl gloves and all equipment is sealed and sterile. Make sure the artist washes his/her hands before putting on each new pair of gloves.
- * Make sure the artist cleans the area being pierced with an alcohol swab before starting.
- * Make sure the jewellery is medical grade stainless steel or titanium.
- * Make sure a sharps container is used for needle disposal.
- * Make sure the artist provides you with full after-care instructions.
- * If you feel uncomfortable at anytime - leave.



BODY PIERCING AFTER-CARE

Some tips after you get a piercing:

- * Wash your hands prior to cleaning the pierced area and jewellery.
- * Wash the area with mild soap and warm water according to the directions given by the artist.
- * Use clean cotton swabs and warm water to remove any dried discharge.
- * When washing the pierced area, get the jewellery soapy and rotate the jewellery to be sure the area is clean. Then rinse with warm water and pat dry with a clean towel.
- * Wear clean, loose clothing around the piercing. Avoid swimming, hot tubs and baths until the area is fully healed.
- * For oral piercings, rinse your mouth with salt water or non-alcohol based mouthwash every time you eat or drink until the area has healed.
- * Do not expose piercings to someone else's saliva or body fluids until the area is fully healed to prevent infections such as STIs, HIV and Hep B and C.
- * If you think the piercing is infected, see a doctor immediately.