TRUE ART TATTOO STUDIO OF MUSCATINE
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PIERCING AFTERCARE

A few basic guidelines for your new piercing. Questions about healing times, extra care or what to watch for? Ask us. That's what we're here for!

Golden rule: DO NOT touch or **"PLAY"** with your fresh piercing!

BASIC RULES

1. **Do not touch or play with it.**
2. The only time to touch it is to tighten the balls. Do this **2 times a day for at least the first two weeks**, then check them often after that.
3. Before you touch it, **wash your hands with ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP**.
4. Do not wear clothing, glasses, hats, etc. that press on the new piercing.
5. **Do NOT use alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, disinfectants, ear care solution, or any other chemicals on your piercing!** All of these irritate the skin and the piercing. They inhibit your body's natural ability to heal itself and will prolong the healing process, sometimes indefinitely.
6. Do not change the jewelry for at least **6 to 8 weeks**. A piercing usually takes **6 months to a year** to fully heal. Changing it too early exposes it to dangers that could have been prevented.
7. Other bodily fluids should not touch your piercing while it heals.

CLEANING SCHEDULE

- **Week 1:** clean twice a day.
- **Week 2:** clean once a day.
- **The next 2 or so weeks:** slowly taper off.
- Use cleaning solution for **4 to 6 weeks at most**.

MOUTH PIERCINGS

- Rinse with a mix of **½ water and ½ antiseptic mouthwash** after eating, drinking, smoking, or anything other than water.
- If a white ring forms around the piercing, or the rinse feels too strong, dilute it with more water.

WHAT TO CLEAN WITH

Option 1: PURE SALINE SOLUTION. Put it on a clean Q-tip and spin it around the edges of the piercing. Do not pick off crustiness.

Option 2: Sea salt solution. Mix it carefully!

¼ teaspoon ground sea salt (not iodized table salt) **to 1 cup distilled water**.
Too strong for your body? Use **1/8 teaspoon** sea salt to 1 cup distilled water instead.
Make sure it's fully dissolved. The water can be warmed in the microwave. Then put it in a small container, such as a cup, and hold it over the piercing.

DO NOT pick off crustiness!

SIGNS OF AN INFECTION

- Excess redness that streaks out from the piercing.
- White, pimple-looking bumps surrounding the area.
- Excessive pain that is worse than the first few days after getting the piercing.

Most of the time, when people think a piercing is infected, it's just irritated. That can come from poor health, harsh chemicals, jewelry getting bumped, ripped or moved around, metal allergies, or a number of other things. Unless it's extremely swollen, red and/or leaking a thick green fluid, **DON'T FREAK OUT!**

When to get help: if you have any concerns about infection, contact a piercing professional and/or a medical professional immediately.