



Appearance Industries Code of Practice Summary

Part 3: Piercing of the Skin

Minimum standards 3A: Body piercing. All operators who pierce the skin must comply with the previous section (minimum standards for all operators who pierce the skin), and any of the relevant sections from 3A to 3E.

Jewellery: You must only use tools and jewellery like studs, rings, and ear keepers that are sterile.

All body piercing jewellery for primary piercing must be made of:

- high quality 14 carat or 18 carat yellow or white gold
- surgical grade stainless steel (316L or LVM)
- titanium, niobium, platinum
- inert plastics

Do not use damaged or scratched jewellery.

Do not use jewellery thinner than 14 gauge below the neck.

Additional recommended best practice – recommended but not compulsory

The Ministry of Health has published 'Guidelines for the Safe Piercing of Skin' to help people in the skin piercing industry better understand how to protect themselves and their customers from the risk of infection.

It also aims to encourage operators to reduce harm from skin piercing and promote healthy skin piercing practices.

Note: This summary sheet is provided only for information and does not replace or supplement the Hutt City Council Bylaw Code of Practice.