



Skin Penetration

The Use of Ear Piercing Guns/Nose Piercing Guns

Environmental Health Guide

Ear piercing guns

The spring loaded *ear piercing gun* or *stud gun* is a specialised tool which was designed to be used on the **ear lobes only**. A stud is loaded into the stud holder of the piercing gun, and the plunger is pulled back causing the stud to pierce a hole in the ear lobe.

Operating an Ear Piercing Gun

Only operators who have adequate knowledge and training on how to operate a piercing gun, infection control techniques and minimum hygiene standards can pierce a client's ear lobe with a piercing gun.

Important information for operators to be aware of include;

- Single use disposable gloves must be used at all times when performing a piercing procedure. Operators must **not** touch the ear or pre-sterilised studs whilst performing the piercing.
- The front and back of the client's ear lobe must be disinfected with an approved skin preparation disinfectant outlined in the Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures.
- Ear piercing studs and clasps must not be used anywhere on the body other than the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear.
- Only sterile capsules containing the stud and butterfly clip are to be inserted into the gun.
- Only single use disposable clasps are to be used on the piercing gun. This will ensure there is no contact between the gun and the ear. The clasp must then be disposed of to the waste after each use on a client.

Cleaning and disinfecting the ear piercing gun

Before a piercing gun can be used on a client it must be disinfected in accordance with the Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures.

After performing the piercing procedure the gun should be thoroughly washed in warm water and detergent to remove any contaminants before re-use on another client.

Storage

Ear piercing guns must be stored in a clean storage container in a hygienic manner. The storage container should be cleaned on a regular basis. The piercing gun should not be stored loosely in a draw where it could be exposed to contaminants.

Using an ear piercing gun to pierce other parts of the body

Ear piercing guns should only be used to pierce the ear lobe and no other area areas of the body. This includes not piercing other parts of the ear.

Nose Piercing Guns

Nose piercing guns should only be used to pierce the nose and no other area of the body. The nose piercing guns operates to a similar effect to an ear piercing gun and the above guidelines should be followed when operating, cleaning and disinfecting a gun.

For further information contact the Environmental Health Directorate
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
Perth Business Centre
Perth WA 6849.

Phone: (08) 9388 4999
Fax: (08) 9388 4955