

UNDERGROUND TATTOO STATION

All Titanium Body Jewelry Used at Our Studio is

Implant Certified Titanium (Ti6Al4V ELI) ASTM F-136 Compliant

- **Certified for medical use** and meets the standards for quality and safety set by the American *(now International)* Society for Testing and Materials Standard (ASTM).
- **Contains No Nickel** - a common allergen that can cause irritation and discomfort.
- **High Strength-to-Density Ratio** *(lighter and less dense than other metals but equally as strong - if not more so).*
- **Can be Anodized!** *(an electrochemical process that changes the surface color while maintaining a safe wearing surface).*
- **Has a Mirror-Polish Finish** which requires no twisting or rotating during healing.
- **Completely Body-Safe** and made of the same material used for replacement hips and pins/screws for surgical reconstruction.
- **Lightweight** (does not “weigh down” a piercing while healing) .
- **Corrosion-Resistant** (maintains its integrity even in challenging environments)

Our Piercer Will Gladly Answer Any Questions You Have About Our Jewelry Selection



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Material Matters

When getting a piercing, the most important consideration (*aside from choosing the right piercer to do the job*) is the material your jewelry is made of. The reason being that even if the piercing is properly performed and jewelry is of the appropriate size and style, those with metal sensitivities/allergies may never be able to heal their piercing completely as long as they are wearing low-quality metal in it. Even if you haven't displayed symptoms of a metal sensitivity/allergy in the past, it *is* possible to develop one over time with prolonged exposure. To facilitate quick and uneventful healing, it is important to make sure you are using implant-grade jewelry for all your piercings as even healed piercings can react adversely to low-quality metals.

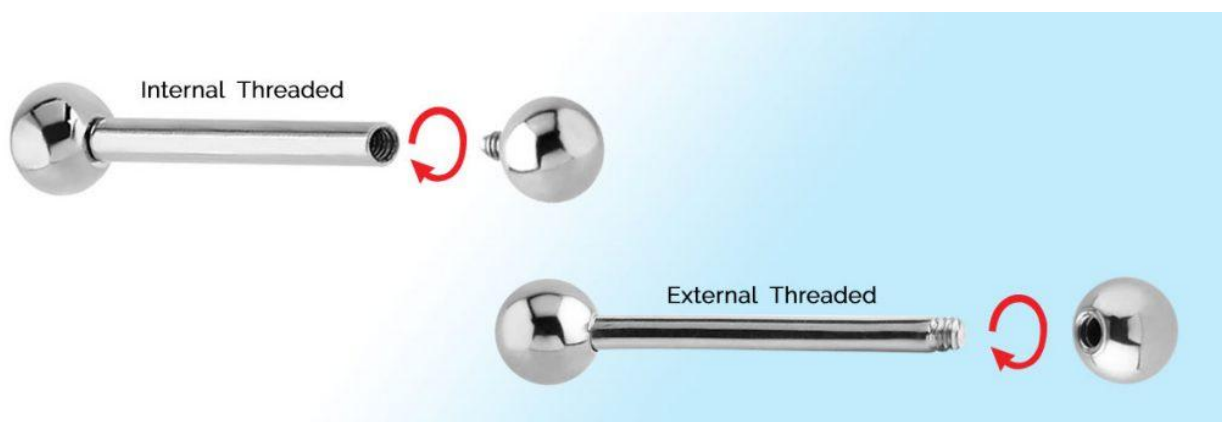


“But My Jewelry is Made of Titanium . . .”

Don't be misled: just because a studio advertises, uses and sells Titanium jewelry does **not** mean that it meets the very specific “implant-grade” standard and can still cause adverse reactions in some people. It's not always possible to tell if jewelry is implant-grade by sight alone, so you will want to ask your piercer to see a “**mill certificate**” provided by that jewelry's maker. A mill certificate is essentially an ingredient list of the metal composition of the jewelry - and if your piercer is using implant-grade Titanium, they should have this mill certificate on hand and available to show clients when asked.

While it is not necessary to understand all the scientific jargon you're likely to see on this certificate, you are specifically looking to make sure the following information is present: **Implant certified titanium (Ti6Al4V ELI) that is ASTM F-136 compliant, ASTM F1295, ISO 5832-3 compliant, or commercially pure titanium that is ASTM F-67 compliant.** If the mill certificate does not show this specific information, the Titanium is NOT implant-grade and should be avoided. If the piercer does not have mill certificates on hand or is unwilling to present them for your inspection, it is *strongly* recommended to seek out a piercer who can.

It's important to know that **only** professional piercing studios stock and use implant-grade Titanium. "Mall Shops" (*Claire's, Icing, Banter, Piercing Pagoda and the like*) do not carry or use implant-grade Titanium no matter how much they try to hype up the quality of their jewelry. "Hypoallergenic" and "surgical" stainless steel are buzzwords used to market to uninformed customers and can still cause reactions in those with metal sensitivities/allergies.



“What Else Should I Know?”

A good indicator that you are receiving low-quality jewelry is that it is “externally threaded” (*meaning that the threading of the jewelry passes through your piercing whenever it is inserted or removed*). The threading acts like a razor blade that can irritate your piercing whenever it passes through it and traps bacteria and other contaminants within the threading that are pushed or pulled through your piercing – very often leading to irritation and infection. The reason this type of jewelry is so prevalent in non-professional studios is because not only is it made from cheap materials but is also cheap to make, purchase and markup for resale. In addition to making sure you are using implant-grade metal, you also want to make sure that your jewelry style is “internally threaded” or “threadless”. For quick and easy reference in a pinch where no mill certificate present, keep in mind that there is no such thing as externally threaded jewelry of implant-grade quality.

“What Are Some Signs I Might Have a Metal Sensitivity/Allergy?”

The most common reason clients will have sensitivity to their body jewelry's metal is because of its nickel content. Symptoms usually mimic *(and are often mistaken for)* infection. Even if the reaction you are experiencing is not a true infection, these symptoms can compromise your immune system and make you more vulnerable to contracting one. Some symptoms to look for are:

- Skin Rash *(a red, itchy rash with bumps or blisters that can appear on the skin where nickel has been exposed to it)*
- Skin Discoloration *(redness or other changes in skin color separate from the expected redness that occurs immediately following the piercing and lasting for a few days after)*
- Itching *(itching that can range from mild to severe)*
- Blisters *(in severe cases, blisters may appear and drain fluid)*
- Dry, Cracked, Scaling, and/or Crusty Skin
- Burning Sensation
- Swelling

In many cases, symptoms of a metal sensitivity/allergy will subside on their own once low-quality jewelry has been removed and replaced with something of implant-grade quality. While **it is always advisable to see your piercer first for any piercing-related issue**, it is important to remember that piercers are **NOT** medical professionals and cannot diagnose or treat a suspected infection. If your piercer determines that you are likely dealing with a legitimate infection, they should advise you to seek medical treatment right away.

• IN CLOSING •

This information has been provided to assist you with making informed decisions about your piercings and health and to facilitate a positive and memorable piercing experience wherever you choose to have your piercings performed. It is important to understand that many common piercing difficulties can be entirely avoided if you are set up for success from the very beginning by using high-quality jewelry installed by a professional piercer who makes your health, safety and satisfaction their priority. When selecting a piercer, be sure to choose someone who has the knowledge and experience to guide you through your healing properly and who you can trust with important matters like these. You deserve it, afterall.