

# Piercer Red Flags

- Piercing with guns.
- Piercing with outside jewelry.
- Using questionable jewelry.

Ask about the metals the jewelry is made out of. Beware of “gotcha” terms like “surgical” steel, which is mystery metal. Sterling silver tarnishes and is unsafe even for healed piercings and can cause argyria, which is a skin reaction to the toxicity of the silver that leaves a dark scar/ discoloration on the piercing site. Plated gold can chip inside your piercing.

Ask about the threading that their jewelry is made out of.

You want to look for piercers who carry internally-threaded or threadless implant-grade titanium, 14k+ gold, implant-grade stainless steel, lead-free glass, or platinum. Go to [SafePiercing.Org](http://SafePiercing.Org) to look at their list of VERIFIED implant-grade jewelry manufacturers.

- Not asking for identification, especially when it comes to minors.

Legally, we are required to have proper identification for everyone, especially kids who require more documents and a parent present.

- Claiming a piercing can be a medical treatment.
- Not doing anatomy checks.
- Doing more than 4 piercings at a time, or offering piercing “tap-outs.”

- They do not thoroughly explain aftercare.
- Not explaining the importance of downsizing.
- They do a “cold sterilisation” of their jewelry, meaning they only wipe it down with alcohol instead of properly sterilising it through an auto-clave.

- No sterilisation room. Used tool reprocessing should happen as far away from the piercing station as possible to avoid cross contamination.

- Beware of cheap prices! There is always a catch if prices are cheap. Corners are being cut somewhere.