

The most important thing to remember is that you must wash your hands thoroughly before cleaning your implant incision. The following recommendations are specific to implants.

1. Clean your implant incision once a day using a non-scented anti-bacterial soap such as Hibiclens® or Provon®. Always clean your incision after showers. If you clean your incision while showering it must be the last to be cleaned, just before you get out of the shower. Clean your incision in the morning or just before you go to bed.
2. To clean your incision, start by first removing your previous bandage. If your implant required sutures or closure strips, make sure the bandage isn't sticking to them. It's important to not rip off any closure strips or pull sutures out while changing your bandage.
3. Use soap on a cotton swab and clean the area around the incision. Always use separate swabs for cleaning each incision, if your implant has more than one. Never use a cotton swab twice as you can swipe bacteria or other unwanted material into the incision, which can lead to an infection. With a clean cotton swab remove any remaining cleaning agent. Wet the swab if necessary to remove any residue, which may cause skin irritation or dryness.
4. You may apply a small amount of Neosporin®, or similar antibiotic ointment, along the incision after 1 week. This can help reduce scarring and help prevent an infection. Don't apply too much, if you used too much, use a lint free paper towel to remove any excess. Never use cloth towels anywhere near the incision, as they may hold bacteria and can cause an infection.
5. Apply a new adhesive medical strip to cover the incision. After a few hours, a simple scab should have formed over the incision site. Once this occurs, normal activities like hand washing or bathing can resume, but try to keep it dry.

Your body will attempt to heal around the newly installed device, encapsulating it in a layer of collagen and fibrin. This process takes about 4 weeks (30 days), during which time it is important to not push around or "play with" the implant too much.

As your body heals, you may notice short bouts of itchiness or twinges of tactile sensation at the implantation site. These mild sensations may occur randomly for up to a year after installation, and are a normal part of the healing process. They are caused by sensory nerves healing around the implant site which were damaged by the installation process.

Bruising is normal and is caused by blood vessels that are damaged during the installation process. This will cause swelling and a slight sensitivity in the surrounding area as any bruise does, this is normal.

Keep a 1 inch area surrounding your implant incision completely clean of any make-up, lotion, scented and specialty soaps, or other similar products. Avoid alcohol, aspirin, and any drugs not prescribed to you. It's also suggested that you can speed healing during this period by taking a high zinc or prenatal multivitamin, good hydration, eating well and a healthy sleep pattern, which will improve your healing overall and lower the risk of migration (the implant moving around and not "locking down"). Make sure you are using clean sheets and pillow cases. Avoid pools, ponds, Jacuzzi's, etc. Do not attempt to remove your implant without professional assistance. Always follow instructions from a professional piercer or your health care professional.

#### Consult A Health Care Professional At The First Sign Of Infection.

Symptoms of an infection can include: fever, redness, particularly if it spreads or forms a red streak, swelling or heat in the affected area, excessive pain or tenderness, and/or pus draining from the incision site. Follow all aftercare to reduce the risk of infections. The appearance of a metal allergy and an infection are often very similar. If your implant is in constant discomfort, has a discharge, is reddened beyond the first week without a causable factor, or simply doesn't feel "right" consult a health care professional. If a health care professional is unable to help, we are always glad to assist.

YOUR IMPLANT MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FOR THE OUTER SHELL:

*Silicone, 24k Gold, SCHOTT's Bioglass 8625, Borosilicate Glass or Grade 23 Titanium.*

YOUR IMPLANT MAY CONTAIN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING INSIDE:

*Silicon, Copper, Silver, Tin, Various Plastics and Electronic Components*

**WARNING:** Any non-medical implantable devices have not been tested or certified by any regulatory agency for implantation or use inside the human body. **USE OF THIS DEVICE IS STRICTLY AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

Complete Healing time for most implants is: **8 ~ 12 weeks**

Some non-specific materials may also be used within the implanted device that are not listed, but don't come into direct contact with tissues, as long as the device remains intact. **Do not attempt to remove your implant by yourself.** If you need to have an MRI, you may need to remove any implants, unless they are made of ONLY silicone or grade 23 titanium. Any implants from Dangerous Things, with the exception of any magnets, have been MRI tested up to 7T and shouldn't cause any issues during a scan. If you wish to have your implant removed, or you're unsure what it's made of, please call or set up an appointment at Skinlab, or with your health care professional. If you need a note from us to show proof of safety testing before an MRI, you can get one at Skinlab, as long as we did the install. These instructions DO NOT replace or supersede any instructions or recommendations of your Doctor or health care professional.

**Do Not Touch your new implant incision, unless you are cleaning it!**

Piercer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_