



WHILE OTHERS ARE COMFORTABLE SELLING ALL TYPES OF JEWELRY, AT STAR CITY TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING, WE ONLY OFFER THE HIGHEST QUALITY TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR NEW PIERCING HAPPY.

STEEL GRADE:

Steel comes in many different grades, but we strongly recommend that you purchase Permanent Implant Grade Stainless Steel, specifically 316LVM. Low-Carbon, vacuum melted steel is more compatible with your body's chemical make-up and is mixed in a vacuum to prevent contamination. Not all 316LVM is Permanent Implant Grade, so be careful. It is important that it has the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) designation. The ASTM number for Permanent Implant Grade stainless steel is ASTM-138-(last year tested). At this time the most recent test was done in 2006.

L - LOW-CARBON
VM - VACUUM MELTED

TITANIUM, NIOBIUM, GOLD, AND PLATINUM:

While these are widely available, Titanium is the only one that has an ASTM designation. The Titanium used in surgical implants and quality body jewelry is 6AL/4V ELI-1 titanium and has an ASTM number of ASTM-136. For this reason, it is slowly replacing Niobium. Anodizing can change the color of both Niobium and Titanium. Neither can be changed to red, and only niobium can be changed to black. The color will not chip or flake off, but it will fade over time, however, black niobium will not fade.

Gold and platinum are both excellent metals for putting in the body, but neither have a permanent implant rating. While platinum is usually 90-99% pure, gold is usually alloyed with various other metals. We use 14k, 18k and 24k gold. 24k gold is 99.99% pure gold which is great for body jewelry, however it is cost prohibitive. 18k gold is 75% gold, while 14k is only 58% gold.

THREADED JEWELRY:

There are two different types of threaded body jewelry; internally and externally threaded. External threading is much easier and cheaper to make, but the threads have to pass through the piercing to put in or remove the jewelry. This causes more trauma to a fresh piercing and may reopen an already healed piercing. (OUCH.) Internally threaded bars have longer threads and stay better when tightened. The bars on externally threaded jewelry typically have shorter threads and the balls may loosen and fall off.

- INTERNALLY THREADED -
BALL SCREWS INTO POST.
- EXTERNALLY THREADED -
POST SCREWS INTO BALL.

WE RECOMMEND THAT
BODY JEWELRY BE
INTERNALLY THREADED.

POLISH:

Most companies will polish their jewelry to remove any imperfections on the surface of the jewelry. Typically this takes place in a set of tumblers that have a polishing medium inside. While tumblers will usually put a slight polish on the jewelry, the metal will still look somewhat gray in color. We use body jewelry that is tumble polished and then further polished by hand to a mirror finish. Taking this extra step means that there are no scrapes, scratches, or microscopic pits in the jewelry. Jewelry must be smooth in order to prevent bacteria growth and irritated piercings.