

Needle Cartridges for Tattooing

Needle cartridges with a protective membrane reduce the risk of blood and body fluids contaminating equipment and transmitting bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

Remember:

- Always use individually pre-packaged and sterile needle cartridges.
- Double-check that the packaging has not been compromised.
- Open packages in front of your client.
- Record each needle cartridge lot number and expiry date on the client record. Keep the records for a minimum of three years.
- Immediately discard the used cartridge into an approved sharps container. Do not reuse.

How do you know if a needle cartridge has a membrane?

- Check the box that the cartridges come in, or
- Check the manufacturer's website, or
- Contact the manufacturer

Tear down instructions when using needle cartridges with a protective membrane:

Item	Instruction
Covers for machine, grip tube & clip cord	Discard covers immediately after use, then clean and LLD to ILD* equipment
Re-usable drive bar, detachable	Clean and use LLD to ILD* or sterilize
Re-usable drive bar, fixed to machine	Clean and use LLD to ILD* (double-wipe method)
Single-use grip tube or drive bar	Discard immediately after use
Re-usable grip tube	Clean and use LLD to ILD* or sterilize

*LLD to ILD: Low-level disinfectant to Intermediate-level disinfectant, which must have a DIN (Drug Identification Number) or NPN (Natural Product Number)

Needle cartridges without proof of a protective membrane can be used with:

- Single-use disposable grip tube and single-use disposable drive bar or
- Reusable grip tube and reusable drive bar that is cleaned and sterilized after each use

Have questions?

Call your public health inspector at 905-799-7700.