

Important:
Reusing old filters is dangerous for your health and should be avoided!

If you intend to collect and reuse cotton filters, it's important to:

- Look for good quality filters so that the fewest possible particles get into your bloodstream. Unused cigarette filters are the next best solution to special sterile filters for injection, but they are not perfect, because they release tiny fibers into the veins, which can get stuck heart and lungs and cause infection.
- Never store wet, used filters in a space without air, in order to slow down growth of bacteria.

Important:
Never use foreign, unclean filters for using or sharing drugs! Heating with a lighter is not sufficient to kill all the germs. Hepatitis C can be transmitted through sharing filters.

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ENGLISH

Fixpunkt Safer Use Infos



Further information and contact:

- verein@fixpunkt.org
- www.fixpunkt.org

Last update: November 2017

Fixpunkt

Ohlauer Str. 22
10999 Berlin



Filters

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Filters

A good filter cleans loose particles and dirt from the solution. Not using a filter or using a bad one during the injection preparation put you at risk for severe health issues.

Dirt and loose particles can damage the inner protective layer of the blood vessels. The heart is especially at risk of being damaged, resulting in endocarditis (symptoms: fever, chills, racing heartbeat) or an embolism (closure of an artery).

▶ See our flyer "Endocarditis"

SOME USERS KEEP OR SHARE FILTERS ...

Sometimes people keep used filters for difficult times. Most of the time, normal filters leave residue inside the filter (more about special filters: see on the right). When sharing drugs, filters are often shared too: All the drugs are put on one spoon, heated, and then everyone involved draws up their share into his or her own syringe. But used filters are potentially dangerous! Bacteria in the filter can cause the so-called "shakes".

▶ See our flyer "Epilepsy, shake and shock"

Due to the humidity in the filter, it is the perfect medium for spores and germs. Tissue or paper towels are not a suitable filters. Cigarette filters are not the best choice either because they release fine cotton fibers into the veins, which can get stuck in the lungs or heart - the perfect medium for life threatening infections.

BEST SOLUTION: USE OF STERILE FILTERS

We recommend the use of special, sterile filters, which are available at Fixpunkt buses, vending machines, and contact stores. They filter many of the common extenders (but no germs!). The drug itself is completely let through by the filter.

⊖ Disadvantage:

You have to let go of the idea of keeping cotton filters as an emergency solution and look for new ideas for these kinds of situations.

⊕ Advantage:

Nothing is left in the filter, so there is no reason to keep it. You can get new filters in the Fixpunkt buses and contact stores for free. This helps you to stay healthy!

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