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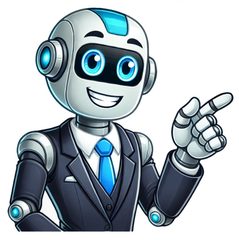

You’ve probably heard countless times that you need to keep your nose ring in for as long as the piercing is healing, and you have been complying with the piercing care rules for a few weeks now.But accidents happen, and there will be a good number of times when the nose ring could fall off accidentally, or you may feel that you just need a small break, even for a night.What happens then? What happens when the nose ring comes off inadvertently when you are dressing, and you think that maybe nothing terrible will happen if you leave the ring out for the night? Would the piercing close up overnight if you leave the nose ring out?Keep reading to find out what you can and can’t do while your nose piercing heals. Before reading this post, you guys also can know more about the pros and cons of nose piercing here! Will my nose piercing close after a few hours?Nose piercings tend to close up rather quickly, which is why you may want to consider any other viable alternatives before removing the ring overnight.Regarding the closure of the nose piercing after a few hours, it’s important to keep in mind that how fast the piercing closes will depend on whether the piercing has healed or not.Essentially, a fresh piercing could close in a matter of minutes, and if you’ve had the piercing for a few months, less than a year, then you can expect it to close up within hours or days if you are lucky.This often happens because the inside of the piercing hole could close up rather quickly, even when you’ve had the nose piercing for a few years.Confusing (and somewhat annoying, too), right?Well, to understand why the nose piercings close up fast, we need to go back to science/ biology.Like any other would in other parts of your body, the nose piercing will heal with time. And when it comes to how much time would be needed for the piercing to heal, the truth is that it depends on a number of factors, including how long the piercing is, the strength and efficiency of your immune system, your age, and also the ability of your body to regenerate new skin cells.Therefore, while some people will be able to stay without their nose rings for days or weeks, after some months of healing, others have to struggle and live with the fact that their healing is slow, and leaving the nose ring out even for a night would be the same as giving up on the nose piercing and letting it close up.But whichever side of this you find yourself in, you need to remember that as long as the piercing isn’t completely healed, all you need for the piercing to start to close is as little as an hour.The good news is that if you’ve had the piercing for long, the piercing hole will remain open for much longer. So, while some people would only get a week without a nose ring and the piercing closing, others get to enjoy over a year without the nose ring and with no risk of the hole closing.The general consensus is that the piercing will close after a few minutes if yours is a new piercing, after a few hours or some days for piercings less than a year old, and for older piercings, how long the piercing remains open varies.Why?When you get a new nose piercing, you are practically creating a tunnel through your ski called a fistula.As the piercing heals, your body generates new skin cells around/ along with the new piercing, from the outside, inwards. And once the new cells have covered the inside of the piercing hole, the cells mature to form a fistula.Now, not everyone grows fistula of the same thickness, which means that as the fistulas develop, some will be thicker than others depending on the body part with the pierced hole.The thickness of the fistula, in the case of the nose piercings, will depend on just how thickly your nasal cavity is covered with mucous.But that is not all, and in the final healing stage, the body will produce a new layer of skin cells to not only line and seal the fistula but also strengthen it.This sort of ‘reinforcement’ for the fistula takes a bit of time, and for some individuals, it only happens after about one year following the piercing date.What it means is that by removing your nose piercing prematurely, which is before the development and the maturity of the fistula, then the piercing hole will only close up in a matter of minutes, hours, or days.The good news is that if you wait it out until the fistula matures, then the pierced hole would easily stay open for months or years after the removal of the jewelry.It’s also worth noting that every time you remove the nose ring before the piercing hole heals, your immune system goes into overdrive, and it closes the hole, as it heals and closes up other kinds of wounds on or in the body.Also, the closure of the pierced hole tends to happen at a rapid rate for the nose piercings because the nostrils are the body’s essential entry point.Will my nose piercing close up overnight?Yes, if the piercing is still fresh, a few weeks or a few months old, it would close overnight. However, if yours is an older piercing, say over a year old, then the chances of the nose piercing closing are slim because the piercing is healed and the fistula matured.Why do nose piercings close up so fast?The reason why nose piercings close up rather fast has to do with the fact that it takes months for the formation and the maturity of the fistula.Then have the skin layers of your nostrils that develop from cartilage, as well as the inner nostril’s lining with the mucous membranes.The mucous membranes seal off quickly when the jewelry is removed.There’s also the fact that the nostrils represent one of the body’s primary entry points, which means that the immune system acts fast to remedy any issue to do with the nose.In this case, the immune system activates cells that ensure rapid healing and closure of the piercing hole; once the jewelry is taken out.So, even when the piercing hole is still visible, jewelry may not go through. Keep in mind that the nostrils are lined with the mucous membrane, which tends to seal up rather quickly once you remove the jewelry.The exterior of the hole will, however, remain open for a longer period because the healing of the nose piercing starts from the outside going in. Also, the nose’s exterior is dry, and it lacks that protective film/ lining.How long does it take for a nose piercing to heal?Your nose piercing will heal after several months.As mentioned above, the pierced hole is a tunnel through your skin, and in the healing process, skin/ epithelial cells are generated along with the piercing jewelry from the outside.So, once the new epithelial cells have been formed along the piercing, they will mature to form the fistula – the fistula is pretty much the tube.It’s only after the fistula matures the hole can remain open for a bit of time.Generally, it takes a few months for the hole to start healing, about 3-4 months, but for complete healing, you have to give yourself up to a year or more –this time would allow for the fistula to mature.But the healing could be longer if your body heals slowly. Recommended reading for you guys: How long after ear piercing can you change earrings?How to reopen a closed nose piercing?If your nose piercing closed up, but you are not ready to give up, here are some of the things you could do to reopen it.1. First, wash your hands You shouldn’t skip the step because it is quite important that you only try to reopen the piercing with clean, disinfected hands to lower the risk of infection.You could use either a mild soap or an antibacterial soap with some clean, warm water to wash your hands.To dry the hands, use paper towels rather than a hand towel because bacteria in the towel could be transferred to your hands.2. Clean the pierced area Before attempting to reopen the piercing hole, first clean your nose and jewelry to curb infections that could occur.Don’t use hydrogen peroxide or alcohol because they are drying, and the chemicals would also damage your jewelry while drying out the piercing.It’s advisable to use a saline solution to clean both your nose and jewelry.In the absence of a saline solution, mix a cut of warm bottled water with about ¼ teaspoon of non-iodized sea salt.Allow the salt to dissolve in the water, then use this mixture to clean the jewelry and your nose.To clean the piercing correctly, use a Q-Tip or cotton swabs with your saline solution. Dab the wet cotton piece around the piercing on the outside and also underneath the inside of the nose.You should also allow the jewelry to sit in the saline solution for about 5-10 minutes for sterilization.Once cleaned, use a clean paper towel to dab dry the area. Again, avoid using a cloth towel because it harbors bacteria.3. Insert the jewelry First, lubricate the jewelry’s tip using oil or soap, then place it in the piercing.It’s likely that there will be growth on the nose’s underside from the mucous membrane repairing itself after you took out the nose ring.If this happens, you shouldn’t panic because you are only dealing with a thin layer – just pierce through it.This should not hurt, but if you find that the nose ring isn’t slipping through the hole easily, you shouldn’t force it; go back to your piercer instead.The Piercer will remedy that obstruction using a taper – a blunt needle often used in widening and stretching piercings.This process will be relatively painless, with the pain felt being significantly less than the pain experienced from a whole new piercing. Related Q&ADo nose piercings close up after years?Since piercings are not as permanent as tattoos, the nose piercing could close after some years.For most people, however, the piercing will not close up even after years of not wearing jewelry because the fistula had healed and matured fully.Will my nose piercing close after 3 years?It depends on your body and how well the piercing healed, and how the scar tissue formed.But the longer the piercing has been there, the longer it would take for the piercing to close.So, if it isn’t well healed, it may close up in a day or after some months.ConclusionIt might be frustrating for a piercing that you’ve had for about a year to close up in a matter of hours or days, and you may have to get the nose re-pierced if that is what you want.The truth is that body piercings are unnatural, and your body will do all it has to do to remove the piercing.The healing process is pretty much a fight against the body’s natural defense mechanisms, which is why you shouldn’t be surprised if the piercing closes up.For more piercing tips, please visit this page for more! Or visit our latest posts here! Stephanie is a jewelry lover when she was a teenager. Her major was fashion design when she was in college. She is a jewelry designer at SOQ Jewelry and other design companies. Now she is also a writer for our website. She writes a lot of designs&brands posts with very actionable tips. Getting a new piercing is an exciting feeling. Sometimes, though, if your jewelry is removed and the piercing site is not properly cared for, your piercing can close—meaning the hole regenerates tissue that grows over the hole and makes it impossible to put jewelry in. "Rather than healing around the path of injury, the scar tissues closes up the path, and the two sides of skin contact each other, blocking the original pierced opening," says dermatologist Dr. Rachel Nazarian. However, there is the hope that a piercing hole can be re-opened. To prevent the problem from happening in the first place, it's important to keep track of how long the site goes without jewelry and to regularly care for and clean your piercing—even months or years after getting it done. Ahead, experts share everything you need to do when your piercing hole closes, including answering the age-old question: how long does it take for a piercing to close? A piercing can close in a few hours, days, weeks, or much longer. This comes down to a few factors, a major one being the age of the piercing. The location of the piercing and how closely you adhere to proper aftercare are other factors tied to piercings closing. "It will vary from body to body—and even piercing to piercing," says Lynn. "Generally speaking, the older and more established a piercing is, the longer it will take to close and heal." If it's a brand-new piercing, removing the jewelry could cause it to close up in a matter of hours. During the healing period, the jewelry acts as a boundary to hold the skin in a specific shape while new tissue is regenerated. If removed, that tissue will grow back over the piercing site. This applies to piercings that are not fully healed—which takes around six months. An older piercing doesn't put you in the clear, either, though. Removing a piece of jewelry may seem to cause no harm since the area is healed; however, while the piercing may be fully shaped and the tissue regrown around it, it's not permanent. Extremely old piercings—like those received in childhood or decades ago—may even take a long time to close up without jewelry. Regardless of research, everyone's body is different, so there's no real science of how long it will take for a piercing to close. The general rule of thumb is that the longer it's in, the longer it will take to close, but you run the risk of it happening any time you remove the jewelry. If the hole appears to be fully closed, there’s no way to re-open it yourself—forcing jewelry through will result in a bloody, open wound and possibly an infection. However, there is a chance that a “closed” hole is only actually partially covered. A thin layer of skin may have grown over the hole, leaving the piercing hole just beneath it. If you believe your piercing is just partially closed over—which typically only happens as soon as it begins to close—you can try to re-open it manually. It is imperative that if you try this, though, that you don’t try to force a stud through the skin, as this will break the skin. "If you can't slide your jewelry back in after a warm shower, don't force it—go and see a reputable professional,” says Lynn. Lynn suggests seeing a professional body piercer who can attempt to re-open it for you if you're having trouble. "I'd say about 75 percent of my clients who come in for a re-piercing leave with an insertion,” says Lynn. "Even if you can't get your jewelry back in at home, there's a good chance that your piercer may be able to." If you believe the piercing is only partially covered, you can attempt a gentle re-opening of the hole. Follow the steps below but if you encounter any issues, turn to a professional for expert help. Wet the area with warm water in a bath or shower to soften the skin. Using a gentle ointment like Vaseline or Aquaphor, gently stretch your earlobe down and to the sides to attempt to open the hole. Try pushing a small stud through the hole; if it doesn’t go in, don’t force it. If the stud goes in, keep it in for a few weeks to make sure the hole is fully re-opened before inserting a new piece of jewelry. Byrdie Tip Do not use a needle or a pin, as this can cause further damage and puncture the skin. People who want to be sure the piercing hole doesn't close up while not wearing jewelry—whether you choose not to or can't wear it for an extended period—will be dismayed to hear that there's no real way to avoid the issue without wearing jewelry. "The goal is to keep the 'scar tunnel' open and [to] not traumatize the area again, which might induce it to close with more scar tissue," says Nazarian. Nazarian recommends always keeping a small stud in the piercing site and rotating it regularly, using a product like Aquaphor or Vaseline for lubrication. If you need to remove the jewelry for whatever reason, she says that placing a small stud in the hole when possible and using a small amount of product to rotate it a few times a day will help keep the area open without irritating it. "If the area ever bleeds or is pulled and traumatized—which increases the risk that it closes up—immediately use this same regimen again for a few weeks," says Nazarian. Lynn suggests wearing small, flat designs or choosing a piece that matches your natural skin tone if you're considering taking out your jewelry because you're worried about it being seen. If it's a medical procedure, says Lynn, you can wear a glass retainer. No matter the reason, make sure you're keeping something in the hole—at least every once in a while—and remember that you shouldn't remove the jewelry until the piercing is fully healed. "The only definite way to keep a piercing open is to keep jewelry in it," says Lynn. "If you have to keep it out for an extended period, you can re-insert jewelry periodically to ensure it stays open." Yes, you most likely can re-pierce the hole. Despite your piercing hole closing, what grows back is the same tissue as before—just scarred. As Nazarian says, "Piercing again requires you to injure the skin through scarred tissue." And depending on how traumatized your body was with the original piercing, you may be able to re-pierce the hole. Because the tissue grows back—albeit scarred—it can easily be pierced again. However, it's important to make sure the area is fully done healing before going back in with another needle. "If there's an abundance of scar tissue present, your piercer will evaluate how safe it is to re-pierce," says Lynn. "Sometimes, it's a matter of waiting longer until your body re-absorbs the scar tissue. Sometimes you can't re-pierce it at all. I see the latter often in single-point piercings that have the same entry and exit point, like surface anchors." Camp notes that the duration of time you should wait to re-pierce the hole will also depend on the site. "Thicker, more cartilaginous sites, such as the tragus, will require more time than the soft ear lobe," he says. Once your piercing has been re-inserted, you'll want to ensure the area remains clean. Camp emphasizes making sure that your hands are clean before touching a piercing and to "wash the piercing with a gentle cleanser once or twice a day, thoroughly rinsing the site afterward." You can use saline solution or soap and water for cleansing your piercing site. Products like petroleum jelly can be applied in a thin layer around the piercing to create a barrier to protect from infection and create an environment that encourages skin healing. As always, monitor the site for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, warmth, pain, and pus, says Camp. If you’re worried about your piercing hole closing over because you need to remove the jewelry, your best bet is to periodically re-insert the jewelry. However, if you can avoid taking out the jewelry for an extended period of time at all—either by switching to flat jewelry or a glass retainer—it’s best to do so. If you find that your lifestyle requites you to remove your piercing frequently, you might want to reconsider the jewelry, as removing it so frequently might cause further damage if you forget to care for it properly, or don't remember to reinsert it after removal. No matter what, never attempt to remove your jewelry at all until your piercing is fully healed. Otherwise, you can almost guarantee it’ll close up. Many people wonder about nose piercings. They ask, “Will my nose piercing close?” This question is very common. It can be confusing. Let’s explore this topic together. What is a Nose Piercing? A nose piercing is a hole in the nose. It allows you to wear jewelry. This can be a stud, hoop, or other types. Nose piercings are popular in many cultures. They can be stylish and fun. How Nose Piercings Heal When you get a nose piercing, your body starts to heal. The healing process can take time. Usually, it takes about 4 to 6 months. Some people may take longer. The healing time can depend on many things. Your body type The type of jewelry you wear Your care routine During healing, it is important to care for your piercing. You should keep it clean. You can use saline solution or gentle soap. This helps prevent infection. Infections can cause problems. You want your piercing to heal well. Will It Close If You Take It Out? Now, let’s answer the big question. Will your nose piercing close if you take it out? Yes, it can close. When you remove the jewelry, the hole may start to close. This can happen quickly, especially if your piercing is new. If your piercing is older, it may take longer to close. New Piercings If your piercing is new, it can close fast. This can happen in a few hours. It is important to be careful. You may want to keep the jewelry in for at least 4 months. Older Piercings If your piercing is older, it may not close as quickly. Some people have piercings for years. Their holes may stay open even after removing the jewelry. But others may find it closes within days. Factors That Affect Closing Many things can affect if your piercing will close. Here are some important factors: Time: The longer you have the piercing, the less likely it will close. Skin Type: Some skin types heal faster than others. Health: Your overall health can impact healing. Care: Proper care can help keep the hole open. Credit: www.realself.com What to Do If You Want to Keep It Open If you want to keep your nose piercing open, here are some tips: Keep the jewelry in for at least 4 months. If you need to remove it, try to replace it quickly. Use a small, thin piece of jewelry if you take it out. These tips can help you maintain your piercing. Remember, care is important. Credit: www.reddit.com What If You Don’t Want It Anymore? If you decide you no longer want your nose piercing, that is okay. You can remove the jewelry. Just remember it may close over time. If you want to keep the hole open for a while, you can use a retainer. A retainer is a small piece of jewelry. It is usually clear or skin-colored. This can help keep the hole open without showing much. Yes, nose piercings can close quickly after removal. This can happen within hours or days. A nose piercing can close in a few hours to several weeks. It depends on how long you’ve had it. Yes, you can reopen a closed nose piercing. You may need to see a professional. Keep the area clean. If it’s closing fast, consider re-piercing it. Conclusion In conclusion, nose piercings can close if you take out the jewelry. New piercings close faster than older ones. The time, skin type, and care all play a role. If you want your piercing to stay open, keep the jewelry in. If you don’t want it anymore, it is fine to remove it. Just know it may close over time. Always take care of your nose piercing. This will help it heal well. Enjoy your nose piercing journey! Frequently Asked Questions Here are some common questions about nose piercings: 1. Can I Change My Nose Jewelry Soon After Getting It? It is best to wait at least 4 months. Changing it too soon can cause problems. 2. How Can I Clean My Nose Piercing? You can use saline solution or gentle soap. Clean it gently. 3. What If My Nose Piercing Gets Infected? If it looks red or feels painful, see a doctor. They can help you. 4. Can I Go Swimming With A New Nose Piercing? It is better to avoid swimming for a few weeks. Water can cause infections. 5. Will My Nose Piercing Leave A Scar? Sometimes, there may be a small mark. It depends on your skin type. A nose piercing can close overnight if it's not completely healed yet. If the piercing is new, it can close within minutes or hours. It generally takes 2-6 months for a nose piercing to fully heal, but older piercings can close unexpectedly, too. To make sure your piercing stays open, keep jewelry in it. If your nose piercing closes, visit a professional, who can attempt to reopen it with their tools or re-pierce your nose once it heals. Yes, a nose piercing can close overnight if it is not fully healed. When you remove the jewelry from an unhealed piercing, the opening shrinks back down, especially if the piercing is newer.[2] Generally, the longer you’ve had the nose piercing, the more likely it is to stay open. A fresh piercing can close in just a few minutes or hours, and if you’ve had the piercing for less than a year, it can close within a few days. Even a piercing that is several years old can close within several weeks.[3] Everyone’s body is different, and each person’s piercings react differently. Some piercings can close within minutes, even if they are several years old![4] Because the amount of time it takes for a piercing to close can vary, it’s generally best to wear jewelry in your piercing overnight if you want to keep it open.[5] Advertisement Piercings are wounds, so your body works to close them quickly. Piercings generally heal in 3 stages. In the first stage, your body attempts to seal the wound shut, and a blood clot forms around the opening. In the second stage, your body creates what's called a fistula, which is a tunnel of scar tissue running from the opening of the piercing to the other side. In the third and final stage, the fistula walls thicken and expand, and the wound (aka your piercing) is healed. Before this thickened, tougher tunnel forms in your nose, your piercing is more susceptible to quickly closing up, which is why it’s extra important not to take your piercing out before it’s healed. Generally, nose piercings take 2 to 6 months to go through the 3 stages and heal completely.[6] If you just got your nose pierced, don’t attempt to change the jewelry for at least 8 weeks, and don’t remove it until the piercing is fully healed.[7] After 2-6 months, check for signs your piercing is

fully healed. If 2-3 weeks have passed without any crust or discharge forming on your piercing, it could be fully healed.[8] If you need to remove your piercing before it's fully healed, try out an acrylic retainer to keep the hole open. 1 If your nose piercing starts to close, see a professional to reopen it. If your nose piercing seems like it has closed, don’t panic! Oftentimes, a professional can use their tools to stretch the area and reopen the hole. This is especially successful if the piercing was mostly healed and stable when you removed your jewelry. Visit a professional piercer to see if they can stretch your piercing back open, without having to re-pierce a new channel.[9] 2 If the piercing is completely closed, see a professional to re-pierce it. It’s possible to re-pierce your nose, but it’s important to wait until the wound heals, which takes about 12 weeks. If you try to re-pierce the area too early, you can have problems with healing and scarring. This is why it’s important to see a professional, who can assess whether or not it’s a good idea to re-pierce the area.[10] 3 If you don't want to re-pierce your nose, try faux piercing jewelry. Sometimes, people’s bodies react negatively to piercings. You might have an allergic reaction to metals, develop an infection, or develop unwanted bumps like granulomas or keloids.[11] If your body didn’t react well to your piercing, and you’ve decided not to re-pierce the area, try out some fun faux piercings to achieve the same look. For a DIY option, try using adhesive gems from the craft store to mimic the appearance of a stud.[12] You can also purchase clip-on nose rings that attach to your nostril to achieve the appearance of a nose piercing! Advertisement Ask a Question Advertisement This article was written by Karissa Sanford and by wikiHow staff writer, Annabelle Reyes. Karissa Sanford is the Co-owner of Make Me Holey Body Piercing, a piercing studio based in the San Francisco Bay Area that specializes in safe and friendly body piercing. Karissa has over 10 years of piercing experience and is a member of the Association of Professional Piercers (APP). This article has been viewed 60,918 times. Co-authors: 3 Updated: April 24, 2025 Views: 60,918 Categories: Nose Piercing Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 60,918 times. "Information is clear and helpful." Share your story Getting a new piercing is an exciting feeling. Sometimes, though, if your jewelry is removed and the piercing site is not properly cared for, your piercing can close—meaning the hole regenerates tissue that grows over the hole and makes it impossible to put jewelry in. "Rather than healing around the path of injury, the scar tissues closes up the path, and the two sides of skin contact each other, blocking the original pierced opening," says dermatologist Dr. Rachel Nazarian. However, there is the hope that a piercing hole can be re-opened. To prevent the problem from happening in the first place, it's important to keep track of how long the site goes without jewelry and to regularly care for and clean your piercing—even months or years after getting it done. Ahead, experts share everything you need to do when your piercing hole closes, including answering the age-old question: how long does it take for a piercing to close? A piercing can close in a few hours, days, weeks, or much longer. This comes down to a few factors, a major one being the age of the piercing. The location of the piercing and how closely you adhere to proper aftercare are other factors tied to piercings closing. "It will vary from body to body—and even piercing to piercing," says Lynn. "Generally speaking, the older and more established a piercing is, the longer it will take to close and heal." If it's a brand-new piercing, removing the jewelry could cause it to close up in a matter of hours. During the healing period, the jewelry acts as a boundary to hold the skin in a specific shape while new tissue is regenerated. If removed, that tissue will grow back over the piercing site. This applies to piercings that are not fully healed—which takes around six months. An older piercing doesn't put you in the clear, either, though. Removing a piece of jewelry may seem to cause no harm since the area is healed; however, while the piercing may be fully shaped and the tissue regrown around it, it's not permanent. Extremely old piercings—like those received in childhood or decades ago—may even take a long time to close up without jewelry. Regardless of research, everyone's body is different, so there's no real science of how long it will take for a piercing to close. The general rule of thumb is that the longer it's in, the longer it will take to close, but you run the risk of it happening any time you remove the jewelry. If the hole appears to be fully closed, there’s no way to re-open it yourself—forcing jewelry through will result in a bloody, open wound and possibly an infection. However, there is a chance that a “closed” hole is only actually partially covered. A thin layer of skin may have grown over the hole, leaving the piercing hole just beneath it. If you believe your piercing is just partially closed over—which typically only happens as soon as it begins to close—you can try to re-open it manually. It is imperative that if you try this, though, that you don’t try to force a stud through the skin, as this will break the skin. "If you can't slide your jewelry back in after a warm shower, don't force it—go and see a reputable professional,” says Lynn. Lynn suggests seeing a professional body piercer who can attempt to re-open it for you if you're having trouble. "I'd say about 75 percent of my clients who come in for a re-piercing leave with an insertion,” says Lynn. "Even if you can't get your jewelry back in at home, there's a good chance that your piercer may be able to." If you believe the piercing is only partially covered, you can attempt a gentle re-opening of the hole. Follow the steps below but if you encounter any issues, turn to a professional for expert help. Wet the area with warm water in a bath or shower to soften the skin. Using a gentle ointment like Vaseline or Aquaphor, gently stretch your earlobe down and to the sides to attempt to open the hole. Try pushing a small stud through the hole; if it doesn’t go in, don’t force it. If the stud goes in, keep it in for a few weeks to make sure the hole is fully re-opened before inserting a new piece of jewelry. Byrdie Tip Do not use a needle or a pin, as this can cause further damage and puncture the skin. People who want to be sure the piercing hole doesn't close up while not wearing jewelry—whether you choose not to or can't wear it for an extended period—will be dismayed to hear that there's no real way to avoid the issue without wearing jewelry. "The goal is to keep the 'scar tunnel' open and [to] not traumatize the area again, which might induce it to close with more scar tissue," says Nazarian. Nazarian recommends always keeping a small stud in the piercing site and rotating it regularly, using a product like Aquaphor or Vaseline for lubrication. If you need to remove the jewelry for whatever reason, she says that placing a small stud in the hole when possible and using a small amount of product to rotate it a few times a day will help keep the area open without irritating it. "If the area ever bleeds or is pulled and traumatized—which increases the risk that it closes up—immediately use this same regimen again for a few weeks," says Nazarian. Lynn suggests wearing small, flat designs or choosing a piece that matches your natural skin tone if you're considering taking out your jewelry because you're worried about it being seen. If it's a medical procedure, says Lynn, you can wear a glass retainer. No matter the reason, make sure you're keeping something in the hole—at least every once in a while—and remember that you shouldn't remove the jewelry until the piercing is fully healed. "The only definite way to keep a piercing open is to keep jewelry in it," says Lynn. "If you have to keep it out for an extended period, you can re-insert jewelry periodically to ensure it stays open." Yes, you most likely can re-pierce the hole. Despite your piercing hole closing, what grows back is the same tissue as before—just scarred. As Nazarian says, "Piercing again requires you to injure the skin through scarred tissue." And depending on how traumatized your body was with the original piercing, you may be able to re-pierce the hole. Because the tissue grows back—albeit scarred—it can easily be pierced again. However, it's important to make sure the area is fully done healing before going back in with another needle. "If there's an abundance of scar tissue present, your piercer will evaluate how safe it is to re-pierce," says Lynn. "Sometimes, it's a matter of waiting longer until your body re-absorbs the scar tissue. Sometimes you can't re-pierce it at all. I see the latter often in single-point piercings that have the same entry and exit point, like surface anchors." Camp notes that the duration of time you should wait to re-pierce the hole will also depend on the site. "Thicker, more cartilaginous sites, such as the tragus, will require more time than the soft ear lobe," he says. Once your piercing has been re-inserted, you'll want to ensure the area remains clean. Camp emphasizes making sure that your hands are clean before touching a piercing and to "wash the piercing with a gentle cleanser once or twice a day, thoroughly rinsing the site afterward." You can use saline solution or soap and water for cleansing your piercing site. Products like petroleum jelly can be applied in a thin layer around the piercing to create a barrier to protect from infection and create an environment that encourages skin healing. As always, monitor the site for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, warmth, pain, and pus, says Camp. If you’re worried about your piercing hole closing over because you need to remove the jewelry, your best bet is to periodically re-insert the jewelry. However, if you can avoid taking out the jewelry for an extended period of time at all—either by switching to flat jewelry or a glass retainer—it’s best to do so. If you find that your lifestyle requites you to remove your piercing frequently, you might want to reconsider the jewelry, as removing it so frequently might cause further damage if you forget to care for it properly, or don't remember to reinsert it after removal. No matter what, never attempt to remove your jewelry at all until your piercing is fully healed. Otherwise, you can almost guarantee it’ll close up. You woke up one morning and realized your nose ring had fallen out overnight. That little nose piercing you took months to heal suddenly has nothing in it. Don’t panic – a fallen-out nose ring doesn’t mean starting the piercing process over. With quick action and proper aftercare, you can reinsert a new nose ring and keep your piercing intact. In this comprehensive guide, we’ll cover how to tell if your nose piercing has closed, tips for reinsertion, what to do if it won’t go back in, and aftercare to make sure it heals smoothly. If you’re short on time, here’s a quick summary: If your nose ring fell out, try to reinsert it within a few hours. If successful, clean daily and don’t change it for 2-3 months. If unsuccessful, you may have to repierce it. Determining if Your Nose Piercing Closed So, your nose ring fell out and now you’re wondering if your piercing has closed up. Don’t panic just yet! There are a few ways to determine if your nose piercing has indeed closed. Gently feel inside the piercing One way to check if your nose piercing has closed is by gently feeling inside the piercing hole. Using clean hands, press lightly on the area where your nose ring was. If you can feel a small hole or indentation, there’s a good chance that your piercing is still open. However, if you feel a layer of skin or tissue covering the hole, it may have closed up. See if a taper or piercing earring fits Another method to determine if your nose piercing has closed is by trying to insert a taper or a piercing earring into the hole. Start with a smaller gauge and gently try to insert it into the piercing. If it goes in smoothly without resistance, your piercing is most likely still open. However, if it doesn’t fit or feels tight, it’s possible that the piercing has closed up. Look for dried blood or discharge One last way to check if your nose piercing has closed is by examining the area for any signs of dried blood or discharge. If you notice any crustiness or dried secretions around the piercing hole, it’s a good indication that it is still open. However, if the area appears clean and there are no signs of discharge, your piercing may have closed. Remember, these methods are not foolproof, and it’s always best to consult with a professional piercer or a healthcare provider for an accurate assessment. They can provide expert advice and help you decide on the next steps to take. How to Reinsert Your Nose Ring Wash your hands and the jewelry Before attempting to reinsert your nose ring, it is crucial to wash your hands thoroughly. This will help prevent any bacteria or dirt from getting into the piercing, reducing the risk of infection. Additionally, make sure to clean the nose ring itself using a mild soap and warm water. Rinse it thoroughly to remove any residue that may have accumulated. Lubricate the jewelry tip Applying a small amount of lubricant to the tip of the nose ring can make the reinsertion process much easier. You can use a water-based lubricant or a specialized piercing lubricant for this purpose. The lubricant will help the jewelry glide smoothly through the piercing, minimizing discomfort and reducing the chances of causing any damage to the delicate tissue. Slowly insert with steady pressure When you’re ready to reinsert your nose ring, take a deep breath to relax and steady your hand. Gently guide the jewelry into the piercing, applying steady pressure. It’s important to be patient and avoid rushing the process, as this can lead to mistakes or further irritation. If you encounter any resistance, pause and try adjusting the angle of the jewelry slightly before continuing. Pro tip: If you’re finding it difficult to reinsert your nose ring, you can try using a sterilized pair of tweezers or a piercing taper to guide the jewelry through the piercing more easily. However, exercise caution and be gentle to avoid any accidental injuries. Remember, if you’re unsure or uncomfortable with reinserting your nose ring on your own, it’s always best to seek assistance from a professional piercer. They have the knowledge and experience to handle the process safely and efficiently. Additionally, if you’re experiencing any pain, excessive bleeding, or signs of infection, it’s crucial to consult a healthcare professional as soon as possible. What to Do if It Won’t Go Back In Discovering that your nose ring has fallen out can be a frustrating experience. Whether it slipped out accidentally or you removed it for some reason, the challenge arises when you try to put it back in and it just won’t go. Don’t panic, there are a few steps you can take to resolve the situation. Try a smaller starter earring first If you’re having trouble reinserting your nose ring, it may be helpful to try a smaller starter earring first. This can help to gradually stretch the hole and make it easier to insert your regular nose ring later on. Start by choosing a smaller gauge earring, such as a 20G or 22G, which is thinner than the standard 18G. Apply a small amount of water-based lubricant to the earring and gently try to insert it into the piercing. Be patient and avoid forcing it, as this can cause further irritation or damage to the skin. Let a professional piercer assist you If you’re still unable to reinsert your nose ring on your own, it may be time to seek assistance from a professional piercer. They have the experience and knowledge to guide you through the process and can provide helpful tips and techniques. A professional piercer can also assess the situation and determine if any adjustments need to be made to the jewelry or if there are any underlying issues that need to be addressed. You may need to repierce if fully closed In some cases, if your nose piercing has completely closed, you may need to consider repiercing. This should only be done by a professional piercer to ensure proper technique and minimize the risk of complications. The piercer will carefully assess the area and determine the best course of action. They may need to use a needle or a dermal punch to create a new hole for your nose ring. Remember, everyone’s body is different, and what works for one person may not work for another. If you’re unsure about what to do or if you’re experiencing any pain, swelling, or excessive bleeding, it’s always best to consult with a professional piercer or a healthcare provider for guidance and support. Aftercare to Promote Healing After getting your nose pierced, it’s important to take proper care of the piercing to ensure it heals properly and minimizes the risk of infection. Here are some essential aftercare tips to follow: Clean twice daily with saline spray One of the most important steps in aftercare is keeping your piercing clean. Cleanse the area twice a day using a saline spray solution specifically made for piercings. Saline solution helps to keep the piercing clean and free from bacteria. It’s crucial to avoid using alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or any other harsh cleansers as they can irritate the piercing and delay the healing process. Avoid touching, turning, or removing jewelry While it may be tempting to touch or play with your new nose ring, it’s important to resist the urge. Touching the piercing with dirty hands can introduce bacteria and increase the risk of infection. Avoid turning or twisting the jewelry as it can cause irritation and disrupt the healing process. Also, refrain from removing the jewelry unless advised by a professional piercer or healthcare provider, as this can lead to the hole closing up. Watch for redness, swelling, discharge Keep a close eye on your piercing for any signs of infection or complications. If you notice excessive redness, swelling, or discharge (especially if it is yellow or green), it may be a sign of infection and should be addressed promptly. In such cases, it’s advisable to seek guidance from a healthcare professional or your piercer. They may recommend additional steps or medications to help with the healing process. Remember, everyone’s healing process is different, and it’s essential to be patient and give your body enough time to heal. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your nose piercing, don’t hesitate to reach out to a professional for guidance. Preventing Nose Rings From Falling Out Have your piercer fit the ring properly One of the most important steps in preventing your nose ring from falling out is to ensure that it has been fitted properly by a professional piercer. When getting a nose piercing, it is crucial to choose an experienced piercer who will take the time to measure your nose accurately and select the appropriate size of the ring. A properly fitted nose ring should be snug enough to stay in place but not too tight to cause discomfort or irritation. Avoid rings before fully healed After getting a nose piercing, it’s essential to give your body enough time to heal before switching to a different type of jewelry. The healing process can vary from person to person but typically takes around 6-8 weeks. During this time, it’s recommended to stick to the initial nose stud or a captive bead ring provided by your piercer. Switching to a regular ring too soon can increase the risk of the ring falling out as the piercing may not be fully healed and can still be prone to irritation or infection. Check ring tightness and clasp regularly To prevent your nose ring from falling out, it’s important to regularly check the tightness of the ring and the clasp. Over time, the ring may loosen due to regular movement or accidental knocks. To ensure a secure fit, gently twist the ring to check if it feels loose. If it does, carefully tighten it with clean hands or seek assistance from your piercer. Additionally, check the clasp of the ring to ensure it is secure and in good condition. If the clasp appears damaged or weak, it may be necessary to replace it to prevent the ring from falling out. Remember, proper care and maintenance of your nose piercing play a crucial role in preventing your nose ring from falling out. If you have any concerns or issues with your nose ring, don’t hesitate to consult with your piercer for guidance and assistance. Conclusion A fallen-out nose ring can be frustrating, but doesn’t have to derail your piercing plans. With prompt action to reinsert or repierce, along with proper aftercare, you can get back to comfortably adorning your nose and showing off your edgy style. Will A Nose Piercing Close The question of whether a nose piercing will close up is a common concern for both new and experienced piercing enthusiasts. Understanding the healing process and factors that influence closure is essential for anyone considering or already sporting this popular form of self-expression. Let’s delve into the fascinating world of nose piercings and uncover the secrets to maintaining that coveted hole. The Healing Journey: A Race Against Time When you first get a nose piercing, your body immediately springs into action, initiating a complex healing process. This journey typically unfolds in several stages: 1. Inflammatory Phase: The initial 24–48 hours post-piercing are marked by redness, swelling, and tenderness. Your body recognizes the piercing as a wound and sends white blood cells to combat potential infection. 2. Proliferative Phase: Over the next few weeks, the body starts rebuilding the pierced area. Fibroblast cells produce collagen, a protein that forms the foundation for new tissue. This phase is crucial for the formation of a stable piercing channel. 3. Maturation Phase: This stage can last several months, during which the tissue around the piercing strengthens and matures. The piercing hole gradually transforms from a fresh wound into a stable, well-defined channel. Key Insight: The maturation phase is critical for long-term piercing stability. Removing jewelry during this period significantly increases the likelihood of the piercing closing. ## Factors Influencing Closure: A Delicate Balance Several factors determine whether a nose piercing will close, each playing a unique role in the healing and maintenance process: 1. Time: The longer a piercing has been in place, the less likely it is to close. Fully matured piercings, typically after 6–12 months, have a lower closure rate compared to newer ones. 2. Location: Different areas of the nose heal at varying rates. Nostril piercings tend to close faster than septum piercings due to the thinner tissue and higher blood flow in the nostrils. 3. Jewelry Material: High-quality, biocompatible materials like implant-grade titanium or 14k gold reduce the risk of irritation and promote healing. Cheap metals can cause reactions, leading to prolonged healing and potential closure. 4. Aftercare: Proper cleaning and care are paramount. Over-cleaning or using harsh products can irritate the piercing, while inadequate cleaning may lead to infection, both of which can cause closure. 5. Individual Healing Abilities: Everyone's body heals differently. Factors like overall health, nutrition, and lifestyle can influence how quickly a piercing matures and its resistance to closure. Pros of Proper Aftercare: - Faster healing - Reduced risk of infection - Lower chance of closure Cons of Neglecting Aftercare: - Prolonged healing - Increased infection risk - Higher closure probability When a nose piercing starts to close, it’s not an overnight event. The process is gradual, often beginning with a slight narrowing of the piercing hole. If left unattended, the body’s natural healing mechanisms will continue to close the wound, eventually leading to complete closure. Signs of Closure: - Difficulty inserting jewelry - Visible shrinking of the piercing hole - Skin starting to grow over the hole Expert Tip: If you notice early signs of closure, reinserting jewelry promptly can often reopen the piercing. However, this should be done gently to avoid further trauma. The good news is that a closed nose piercing can often be reopened, especially if it’s done soon after closure. Here’s what you need to know: 1. Recent Closures: Piercings that have closed within a few weeks or months are generally easier to reopen. The tissue is still pliable, and the body’s memory of the piercing can aid in the process. 2. Older Closures: Reopening a piercing that has been closed for a long time may require professional assistance. A piercer can assess the tissue and determine the best approach, which might include a new piercing. 3. Professional Assistance: Always seek a reputable piercer for reopening attempts. They have the tools and expertise to minimize pain and reduce the risk of complications. Preventing Closure: A Proactive Approach Prevention is always better than cure, and this adage holds true for nose piercings. Here are some practical tips to minimize the risk of closure: Maintain Jewelry: Keep your piercing adorned with high-quality jewelry at all times, especially during the maturation phase. Regular Cleaning: Follow a consistent cleaning routine using saline solution or a piercer-recommended cleanser. Avoid Irritation: Be mindful of activities that may irritate the piercing, such as playing with the jewelry or exposing it to harsh chemicals. Healthy Lifestyle: Support your body’s healing processes with a balanced diet, adequate sleep, and stress management. Daily Aftercare Routine:** 1. Wash hands thoroughly before touching the piercing. 2. Clean the piercing with saline solution or recommended cleanser. 3. Gently dry the area with a clean paper towel or disposable tissue. 4. Avoid rotating or twisting the jewelry unnecessarily. Getting a nose piercing is a commitment to a journey of self-expression and body modification. Understanding the healing process and factors influencing closure empowers you to make informed decisions. Whether you’re a first-time piercee or a seasoned enthusiast, patience and proper care are the keys to enjoying your nose piercing for years to come. How long does it take for a nose piercing to close completely? + The time it takes for a nose piercing to close varies. Recent piercings (within weeks) may close within hours to days if left without jewelry. Older, well-healed piercings can take weeks or even months to close completely. Can I reopen a nose piercing that has been closed for years? + Reopening an old piercing is possible but may require professional assistance. A piercer can assess the tissue and determine if a new piercing is necessary or if the old channel can be reopened. What's the best way to clean a nose piercing to prevent closure? + Use a sterile saline solution or a mild, fragrance-free soap recommended by your piercer. Clean the piercing twice daily, and always wash your hands before touching the area. Does the type of jewelry affect how quickly a piercing closes? + Yes, high-quality jewelry made from biocompatible materials reduces irritation and promotes healing, lowering the risk of closure. Cheap or inappropriate jewelry can cause reactions, leading to faster closure. How can I tell if my nose piercing is starting to close? + Early signs include difficulty inserting jewelry, visible narrowing of the piercing hole, and skin starting to grow over the hole. Prompt action, like reinserting jewelry, can often prevent complete closure. In the world of body piercings, knowledge is power. By understanding the intricacies of the healing process and the factors at play, you can ensure your nose piercing remains a lasting testament to your personal style. So, embrace the journey, care for your piercing, and let your self-expression shine through! Getting a new piercing is an exciting feeling. Sometimes, though, if your jewelry is removed and the piercing site is not properly cared for, your piercing can close—meaning the hole regenerates tissue that grows over the hole and makes it impossible to put jewelry in. "Rather than healing around the path of injury, the scar tissues closes up the path, and the two sides of skin contact each other, blocking the original pierced opening," says dermatologist Dr. Rachel Nazarian. However, there is the hope that a piercing hole can be re-opened. To prevent the problem from happening in the first place, it's important to keep track of how long the site goes without jewelry and to regularly care for and clean your piercing—even months or years after getting it done. Ahead, experts share everything you need to do when your piercing hole closes, including answering the age-old question: how long does it take for a piercing to close? A piercing can close in a few hours, days, weeks, or much longer. This comes down to a few factors, a major one being the age of the piercing. The location of the piercing and how closely you adhere to proper aftercare are other factors tied to piercings closing. "It will vary from body to body—and even piercing to piercing," says Lynn. "Generally speaking, the older and more established a piercing is, the longer it will take to close and heal." If it's a brand-new piercing, removing the jewelry could cause it to close up in a matter of hours. During the healing period, the jewelry acts as a boundary to hold the skin in a specific shape while new tissue is regenerated. If removed, that tissue will grow back over the piercing site. This applies to piercings that are not fully healed—which takes around six months. An older piercing doesn't put you in the clear, either, though. Removing a piece of jewelry may seem to cause no harm since the area is healed; however, while the piercing may be fully shaped and the tissue regrown around it, it's not permanent. Extremely old piercings—like those received in childhood or decades ago—may even take a long time to close up without jewelry. Regardless of research, everyone's body is different, so there's no real science of how long it will take for a piercing to close. The general rule of thumb is that the longer it's in, the longer it will take to close, but you run the risk of it happening any time you remove the jewelry. If the hole appears to be fully closed, there’s no way to re-open it yourself—forcing jewelry through will result in a bloody, open wound and possibly an infection. However, there is a chance that a “closed” hole is only actually partially covered. A thin layer of skin may have grown over the hole, leaving the piercing hole just beneath it. If you believe your piercing is just partially closed over—which typically only happens as soon as it begins to close—you can try to re-open it manually. It is imperative that if you try this, though, that you don’t try to force a stud through the skin, as this will break the skin. "If you can't slide your jewelry back in after a warm shower, don't force it—go and see a reputable professional,” says Lynn. Lynn suggests seeing a professional body piercer who can attempt to re-open it for you if you're having trouble. "I'd say about 75 percent of my clients who come in for a re-piercing leave with an insertion,” says Lynn. "Even if you can't get your jewelry back in at home, there's a good chance that your piercer may be able to." If you believe the piercing is only partially covered, you can attempt a gentle re-opening of the hole. Follow the steps below but if you encounter any issues, turn to a professional for expert help. Wet the area with warm water in a bath or shower to soften the skin. Using a gentle ointment like Vaseline or Aquaphor, gently stretch your earlobe down and to the sides to attempt to open the hole. Try pushing a small stud through the hole; if it doesn’t go in, don’t force it. If the stud goes in, keep it in for a few weeks to make sure the hole is fully re-opened before inserting a new piece of jewelry. Byrdie Tip Do not use a needle or a pin, as this can cause further damage and puncture the skin. People who want to be sure the piercing hole doesn't close up while not wearing jewelry—whether you choose not to or can't wear it for an extended period—will be dismayed to hear that there's no real way to avoid the issue without wearing jewelry. "The goal is to keep the 'scar tunnel' open and [to] not traumatize the area again, which might induce it to close with more scar tissue," says Nazarian. Nazarian recommends always keeping a small stud in the piercing site and rotating it regularly, using a product like Aquaphor or Vaseline for lubrication. If you need to remove the jewelry for whatever reason, she says that placing a small stud in the hole when possible and using a small amount of product to rotate it a few times a day will help keep the area open without irritating it. "If the area ever bleeds or is pulled and traumatized—which increases the risk that it closes up—immediately use this same regimen again for a few weeks," says Nazarian. Lynn suggests wearing small, flat designs or choosing a piece that matches your natural skin tone if you're considering taking out your jewelry because you're worried about it being seen. If it's a medical procedure, says Lynn, you can wear a glass retainer. No matter the reason, make sure you're keeping something in the hole—at least every once in a while—and remember that you shouldn't remove the jewelry until the piercing is fully healed. "The only definite way to keep a piercing open is to keep jewelry in it," says Lynn. "If you have to keep it out for an extended period, you can re-insert jewelry periodically to ensure it stays open." Yes, you most likely can re-pierce the hole. Despite your piercing hole closing, what grows back is the same tissue as before—just scarred. As Nazarian says, "Piercing again requires you to injure the skin through scarred tissue." And depending on how traumatized your body was with the original piercing, you may be able to re-pierce the hole. Because the tissue grows back—albeit scarred—it can easily be pierced again. However, it's important to make sure the area is fully done healing before going back in with another needle. "If there's an abundance of scar tissue present, your piercer will evaluate how safe it is to re-pierce," says Lynn. "Sometimes, it's a matter of waiting longer until your body re-absorbs the scar tissue. Sometimes you can't re-pierce it at all. I see the latter often in single-point piercings that have the same entry and exit point, like surface anchors." Camp notes that the duration of time you should wait to re-pierce the hole will also depend on the site. "Thicker, more cartilaginous sites, such as the tragus, will require more time than the soft ear lobe," he says. Once your piercing has been re-inserted, you'll want to ensure the area remains clean. Camp emphasizes making sure that your hands are clean before touching a piercing and to "wash the piercing with a gentle cleanser once or twice a day, thoroughly rinsing the site afterward." You can use saline solution or soap and water for cleansing your piercing site. Products like petroleum jelly can be applied in a thin layer around the piercing to create a barrier to protect from infection and create an environment that encourages skin healing. As always, monitor the site for signs of infection, such as redness, swelling, warmth, pain, and pus, says Camp. If you’re worried about your piercing hole closing over because you need to remove the jewelry, your best bet is to periodically re-insert the jewelry. However, if you can avoid taking out the jewelry for an extended period of time at all—either by switching to flat jewelry or a glass retainer—it’s best to do so. If you find that your lifestyle requites you to remove your piercing frequently, you might want to reconsider the jewelry, as removing it so frequently might cause further damage if you forget to care for it properly, or don't remember to reinsert it after removal. No matter what, never attempt to remove your jewelry at all until your piercing is fully healed. Otherwise, you can almost guarantee it’ll close up.

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