

About our Supplies

The supplies in this resource (tubing, screens, push sticks, pipes and foils) are distributed through Harm Reduction Services at the BCCDC. All items distributed through our program meet Canadian regulations to ensure the health and safety of people using them.

How Pipes Break

Pipes distributed through the Harm Reduction Program and Health Authorities are made of safety glass which are stronger than other glass products; but they can still break. Handling with care will help prolong the life of your pipe.

- Overheating in one area or drastic temperature changes
- Dropping or stepping on it
- Sitting on it while it is in your pocket
- Rough handling
- Using a metal object while cleaning

Pipe Care

- Maintaining stems/crack pipes: using a push stick, push alcohol swabs back and forth inside the pipe to remove residue
- Maintaining bowl/meth pipes: soak in alcohol or vinegar solution to remove residue, rather than using a push stick, as they are more fragile

How to Prevent a Broken Pipe

- Keep it in a hard case, like an eyeglass case
- Use wooden push stick to scrape, clean, and push screens back and forth, rather than a metal instrument
- Warm the pipe slightly before scraping residue off the inside
- Move the heat source around when smoking to avoid cracking

Note: not all pipes are safe to use. We recommend knowing where your supplies come from. Find a site here: towardtheheart.com/site-finder

Safer Smoking Supplies



Opioid Overdose

Call 911
Give Breaths
Give Naloxone

Stimulant Overdose

Call 911
Stay and Help
Keep them comfortable,
conscious, and hydrated

Mix of Drugs? Naloxone can still help, it's safe

NOTE: Our current drug supply is unpredictable and toxic. Overdoses can happen even if you smoke; Carry a naloxone kit, it could save a life



Tubing

- Tubing is made out of food grade vinyl
- It comes in different sizes and is for both straight (stems) and bubble pipes (bowls)
- Put the tubing at the end of a pipe to avoid burns or getting cuts from chipped edges
- We recommend you change the mouthpiece (tubing) per person, when re-using your pipe

Foil

- Kitchen foil has a coating that can be harmful to inhale when heated
- Harm reduction foil does not have a coating and is thicker to avoid foil disintegrating and overheating your drugs



Screens

- Screens through BCCDC's Supply Program are safer than faucet screens
- They do not release toxic chemicals at high temperatures
- They are used to stop debris from entering your lungs
- Pack up to 5 screens into your pipe
- Brillo can have a coating or cleaning solution in them. If using Brillo, use screens too; put at least one between the Brillo and the end you inhale.

Alcohol Swabs

- Clean your hands and mouthpiece often, with soap and water or with alcohol swab



Stems & Bowls

- Pipes through the BCCDC and Health Authorities are made of safety glass. They are less likely to break down when heated and cause burns.
- Pipes made of plastic, pop cans or copper can release toxic fumes when heated or burned. Thin glass, such as light bulbs, break easily and can lead to cuts and burns.

Push Sticks

- Push sticks are made of wood
- When cleaning your pipe, wood is less likely than metal to damage your pipe
- They are used to pack/position screens inside a pipe
- Can be used to move screens to scrape some of the drug for consumption