

SPEEDBALLS

INJECTING HEROIN &
CRACK (OR COCAINE)



Speedball

i



Getting Ready

1



Cooking Up

2



Digging

3



Injuries & Infections

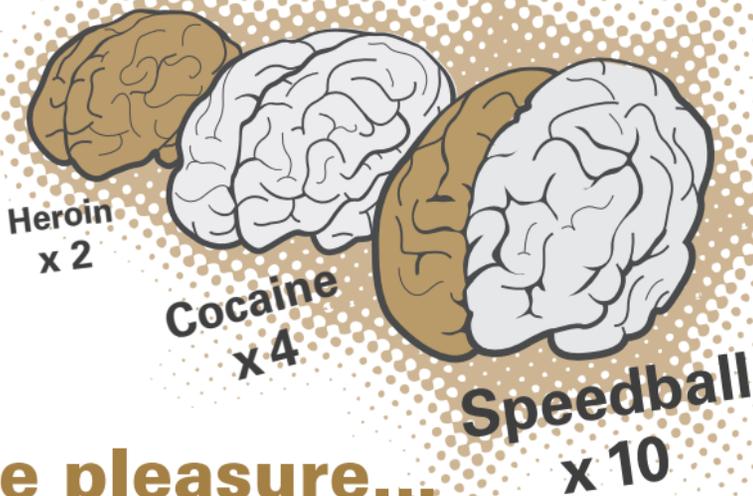
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i. Speedballs

A speedball is crack (or cocaine) and heroin injected together in one shot.



More pleasure...

Injecting heroin boosts the dopamine (a pleasure chemical) in your brain by 2 times. Injecting heroin and cocaine together boosts dopamine by 10 times. Speedballs feel really good.

More pain...

Speedballers inject more times each day so they are at higher risk from viruses, infections and injuries.



More trouble...

A speedball habit is 4 times the price of a heroin habit. Speedball users are more likely be homeless and to have experienced mental illness.



⚠ Speedballs feel good, but they are more harmful than using heroin alone.

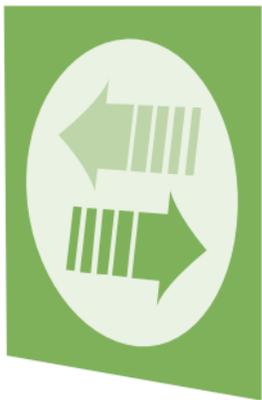
✓ You can reduce some of the harm by changing the way you inject.





2. Getting Ready

Collect your kit, find a clean place to cook up and wash your hands.



STERILE



1

Visit your local exchange or pharmacy. Collect plenty of sterile kit so that you do not have to share or reuse. You may inject more often than you think.



Speedball sessions can get messy.



Find a clean space just for you and no one else.

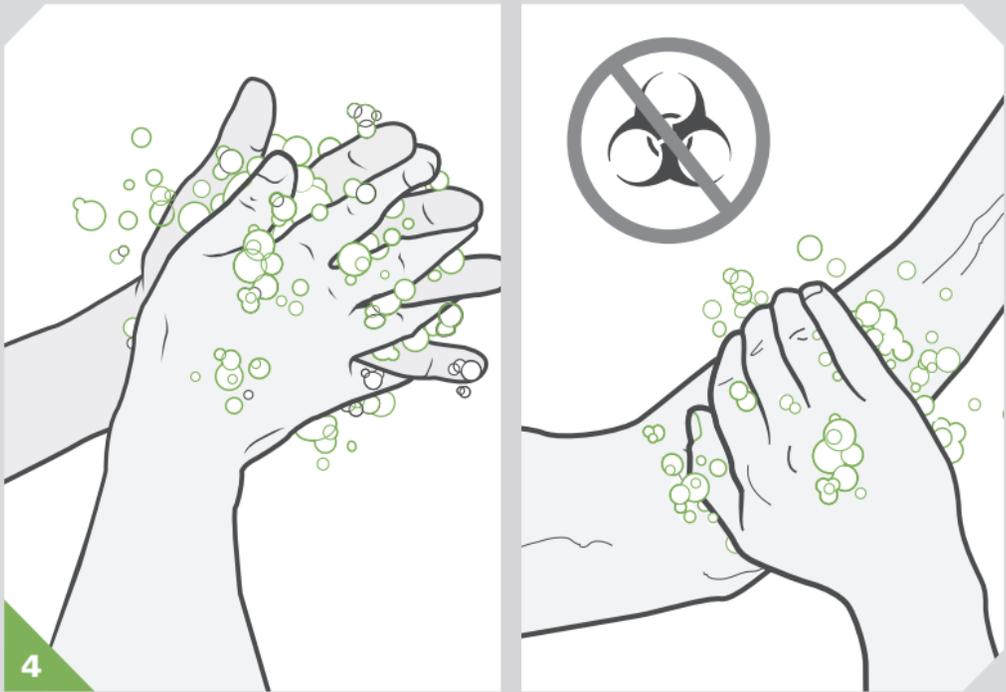


NEVER SHARE

*Avoid Hep C and HIV
– never share anything you
use to inject.*



Mark your kit so there
are no mistakes.



To prevent infections wash your hands and the injection site with soap and water. Wiping with a swab is better than nothing.

Remember...

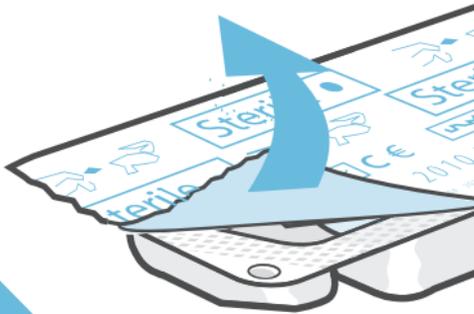
- ✓ Collect plenty of sterile kit
- ✓ Find a clean space just for you
- ✓ Wash your hands and injection site



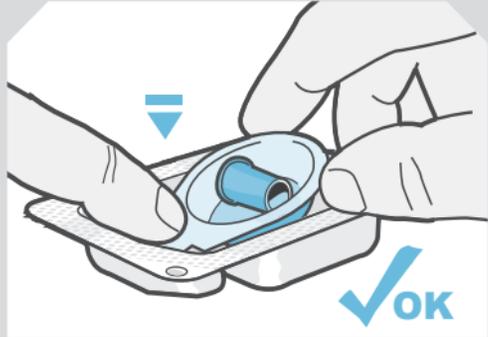


3. Cooking Up

Add water, add acid, cook up the hit
and load the syringe.



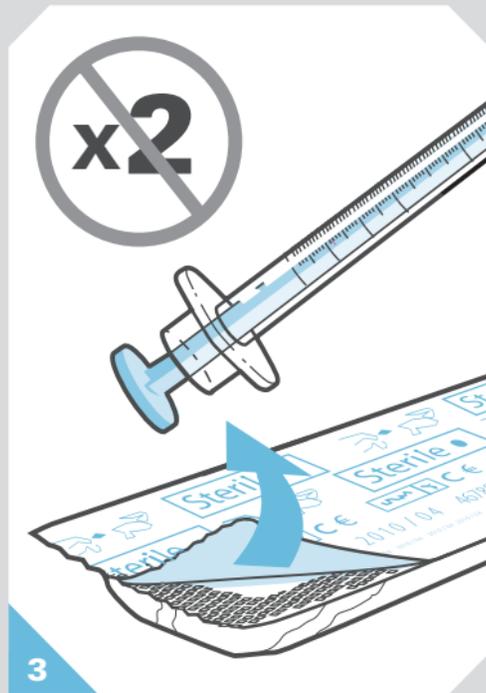
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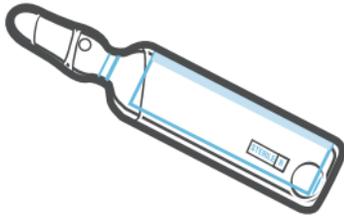
Use a new sterile cooker. Keep it sterile – do not touch the inside.



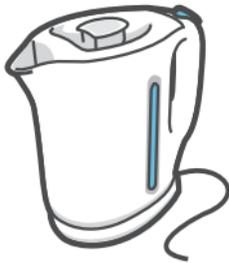
Add the heroin.



Unwrap a brand new sterile syringe.

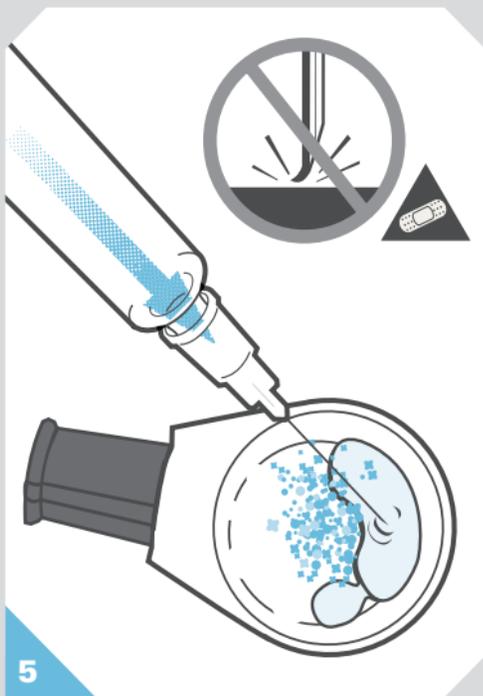


OR



4

Draw up sterile water or boiled water that has cooled.



Carefully squirt the water into the cooker.



Use only citric or vit C powder to dissolve the solution.



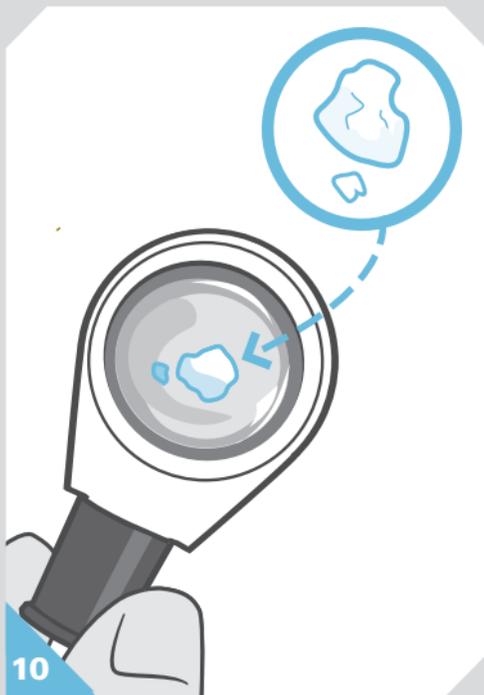
Citric and vit C are acids and can burn your veins so use as little as you can. Most injectors use too much.



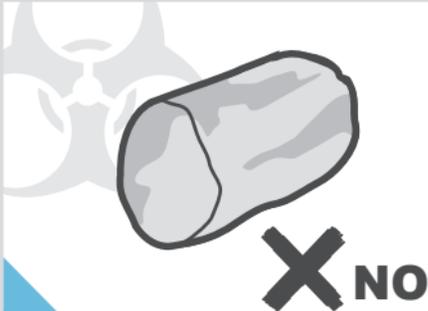
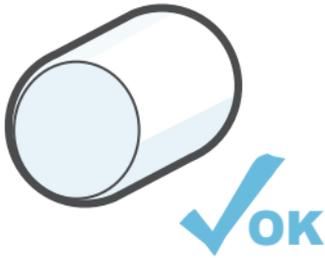
Heat until the heroin dissolves.



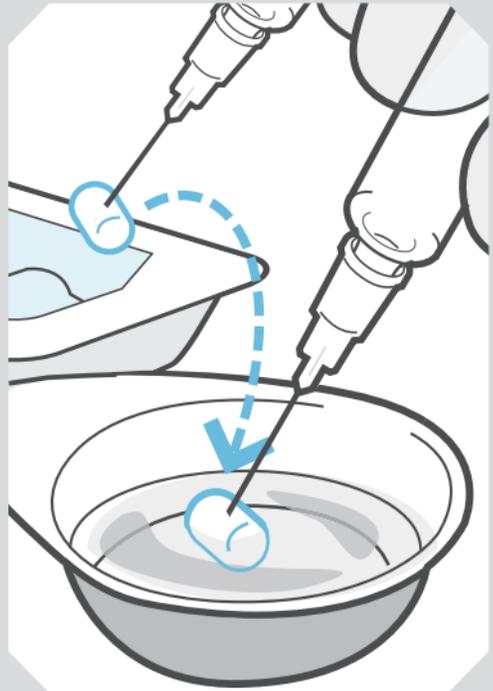
Leave any stubborn bits. These are not heroin.



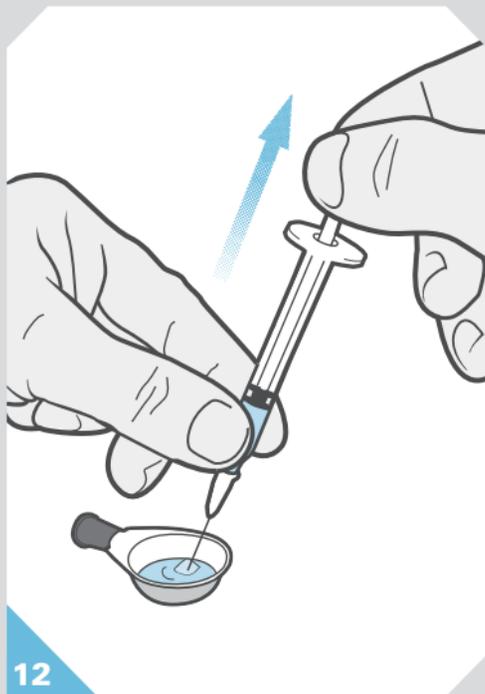
Add the rock or cocaine and stir it in with the capped syringe.



11



Used filters can carry infections. Pick up a new filter with the needle and place it in the cooker.



Draw up the solution through the filter.



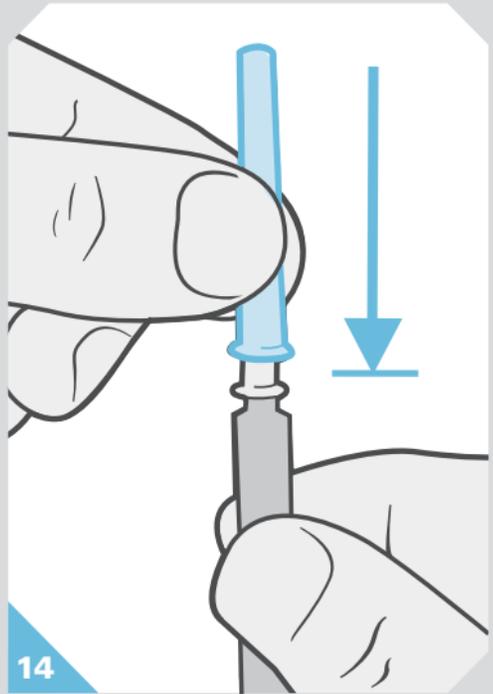
Tap out big bubbles. Small bubbles are no problem.





NEVER TOUCH OR LICK

Your skin and mouth are covered with bacteria.

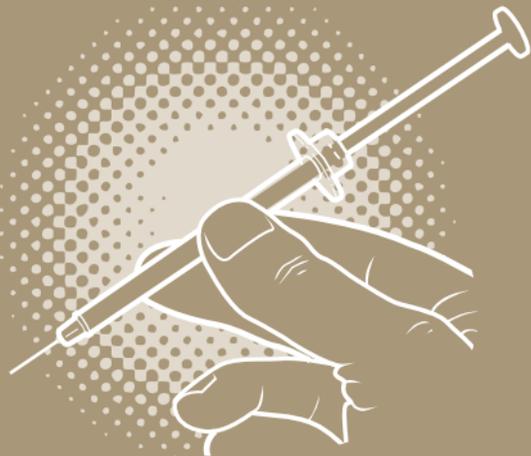


Cap the syringe while you find your vein.

Remember...

- ✓ Use new kit for every hit
- ✓ Use as little citric as you can
- ✓ Never touch or lick the pin





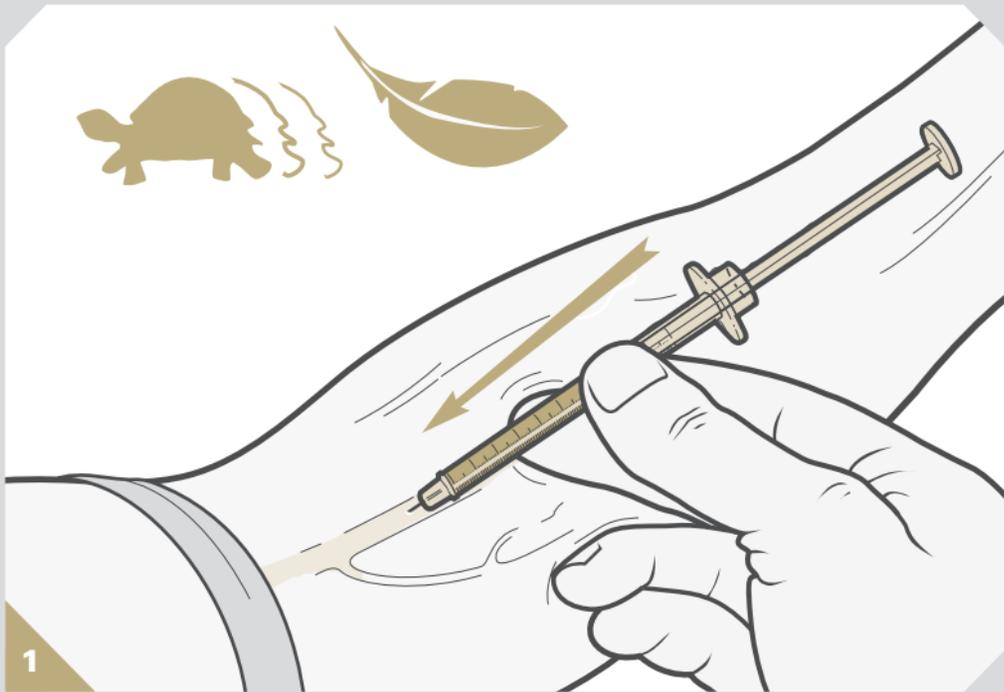
4. Injecting

Choose a site, find a vein and inject.



✓ **Rotate injection sites**

Speedballers may inject more times a day. If you rotate your injection sites your veins will last longer. Try to pick three sites.



1
Slide lightly into the vein at a shallow angle. Look for dark blood to show you are in the vein.

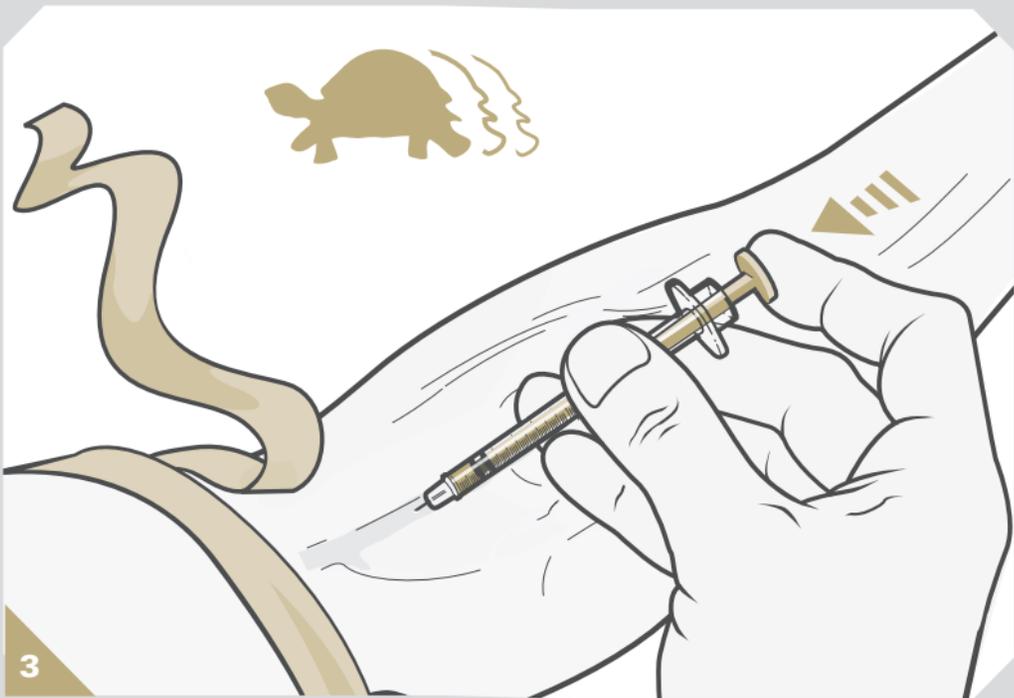


STOP IF YOU FEEL PAIN.

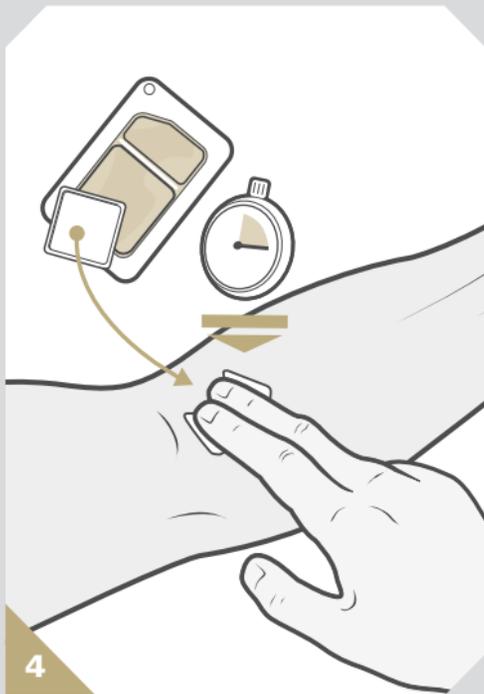
You may be hitting a nerve or artery. Remove the pin and try somewhere else.



Ease back to be sure you are in the vein.



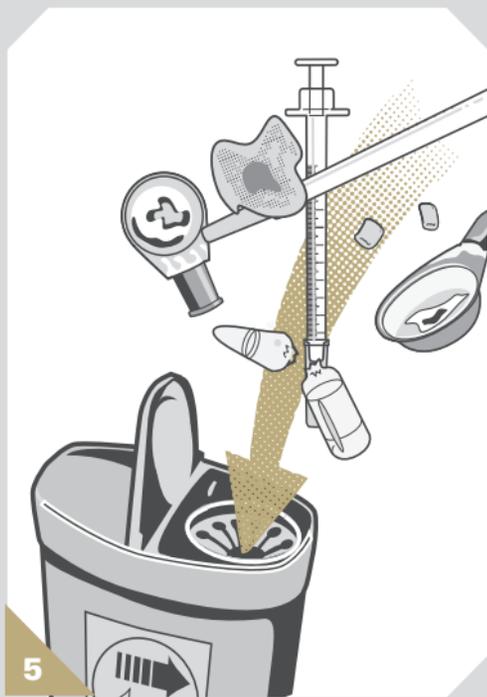
3
Release the tourniquet and empty the barrel slowly. Stop if you feel pain.



Ease out the pin. Apply pressure with a new pad to stop the bleeding.



DO NOT FLUSH or boot with blood, all it will do is damage the vein.



Dispose of everything you use to inject in a sharps box.



Keep drugs and kit out of reach of children.

Remember...

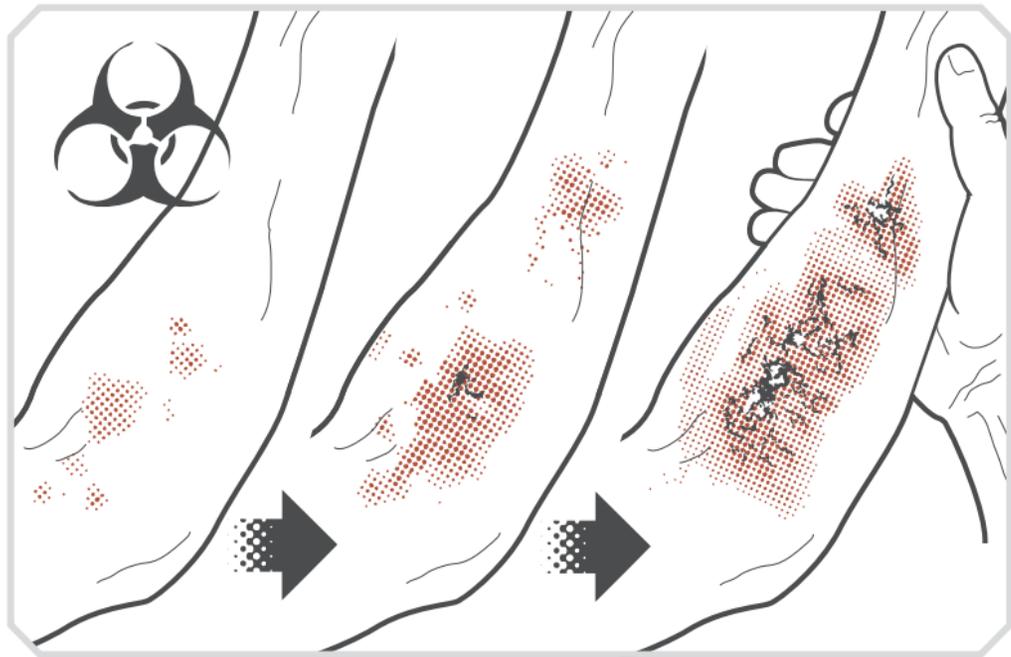
- ✓ Rotate your injection sites
- ✓ Go slowly and stop if you feel pain
- ✓ Do not flush or boot the syringe



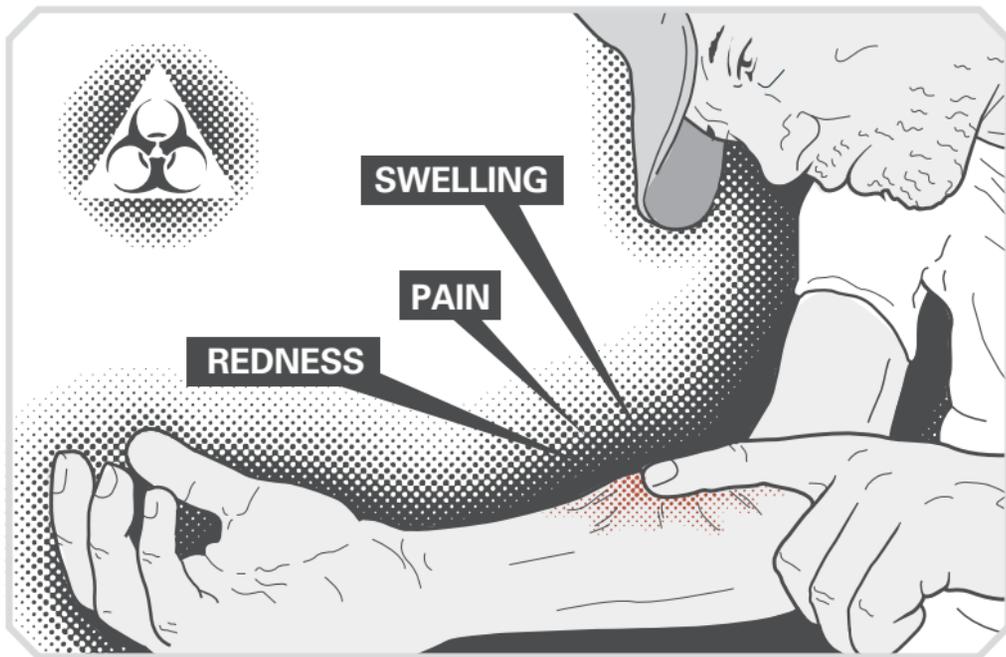


3. Injuries & Infections

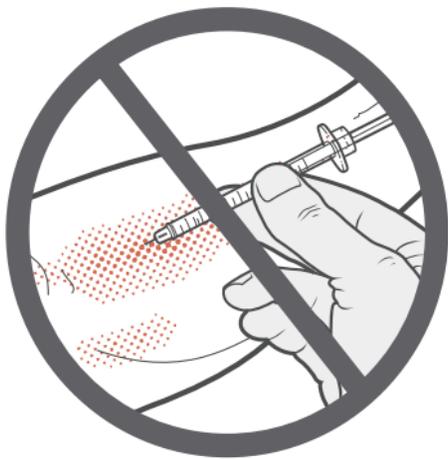
Speedballers suffer more injuries and infections because they inject more often and the cocaine stops them feeling pain.



! Infections can get serious very quickly. If you do nothing, you could lose a limb or even die.



✓ Watch out for signs of trouble and act fast.



DO NOT INJECT

Digging near an infection or an injury will make it worse.



✓ Keep it clean

Wash the affected area with soap and water.





✔ See a doctor

Most injuries and infections can be sorted out if you see a doctor right away.

Remember...

- ✓ Watch out for trouble
- ✓ Stop injecting there
- ✓ Keep it clean
- ✓ See a doctor



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[>] aims
To provide accurate information and advice on the simultaneous injecting of heroin and cocaine in a needle exchange setting.

[>] audience
Speedball injectors.

[v] content
No swearing. Illustrations of drug use.

[£] funding
Self-financed.



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