

AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

TATTOO

After your tattoo has been completed your artist will apply a cover.

DO NOT REMOVE THIS BANDAGE for at least 24 HOURS.

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO KEEP THE BANDAGE ON FOR 3-5 DAYS.

DO NOT REBANDAGE (unless provided with second skin and instructions by your artist).

REMOVING BANDAGE: While in the shower, wash your hands and gently remove the bandage by rinsing with an indirect flow of cool water while GENTLY pulling it off. (*TIP: stretching the bandage sideways will help loosen it*). **DO NOT** put your new tattoo directly under running water, instead splash or put your hand in the stream to break the direct flow.

CLEAN YOUR TATTOO by applying a mild antibacterial soap (no perfumes), rinse and pat dry with a clean towel or paper towel. Apply a light amount of soothing ointment (tattoo aftercare balm preferred).

DO NOT USE VASELINE OR PETROLEUM BASED PRODUCTS. Continue this process 1-2 times daily for around 3-5 days. *If your tattoo is on an area like the wrist, hand or foot, washing 3 to 4 times a day is recommended.*

ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE TOUCHING YOUR TATTOO.

Shower as you would normally but it's definitely a good idea to keep the tattooed area out of direct contact of water (bathing or swimming). The already fragile skin becomes even more so when it absorbs excess water.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Your tattoo will be sore for the first few days. A scab may begin to form prior to peeling. It may be thick in some places and thin in others. Some people do not scab at all while others do quite a bit.

DO NOT PICK THE SCABS, they will fall off on their own.

Your tattoo may start to itch. **It is very important that you DO NOT SCRATCH or pull off any flaking skin.** If you should cause your tattoo to bleed you will likely lose the color in that spot. The skin flakes that are peeling off may be white or the colors of your tattoo. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOUR TATTOO COLOR IS FALLING OUT.** This is normal and is just the pigment that was resting on the surface of your skin.

Once there is no more peeling/flaking, you'll notice the skin over the tattoo is shiny, like the skin over a freshly healed scratch or scrape. There may or may not be small areas that appear cloudy or white (milky skin). This is normal in newly formed skin. **IT TAKES ONE MONTH TO FULLY HEAL and only then will you see the final results.**

If after 30 days, you have any missing color you can consider coming back to get a touch-up. If everything looks good, great!

Applying lotion to it on a regular basis will make the colors look as bright (or as dark) as they can. Wearing sunscreen with at least SPF15 whenever it's exposed to the sun will greatly extend the life of your tattoo and keep colors true longer.

DO NOT go swimming for 4 weeks.

DO NOT expose your new tattoo to direct sunlight until healed and you can apply sunscreen.

DO NOT pick or scratch your tattoo while it is healing.

DO NOT use Petroleum based or perfumed creams or lotions while healing.

DO NOT do a strenuous workout within the first 48 hours.

DO NOT let your pets (or anyone) lick, scratch or touch it while healing.

DO KEEP YOUR TATTOO CLEAN AT ALL TIMES

COMPARING NORMAL HEALING TO AN INFECTION

Most tattoos look at least a little irritated right after being completed, though the initial irritation should begin to subside in a few days as the needle punctures heal.

It's normal to experience the following symptoms for a few weeks while your tattoo is healing:

-Itching, scabbing, flaking, these signs are healthy. The scabbing and crust shouldn't be picked at or scraped off. The crust helps seal the skin from outside organisms that can cause infection, so it's a good thing.

Prevention is better than cure".

If you have made your mind to get 'inked' there are certain things that you must keep in mind to protect your precious tattoo from infection

-Keep the area dry at all times. Protect ink from water and direct sunlight. Wrap it lightly if you must take a bath, and keep it covered while going out.

-Cold conditions accelerate the healing process, while hotter places can induce an infection. So, set your air conditioner at a lower temperature.

Follow all aftercare instructions to the letter. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact the shop.

SIGNS OF AND AVOIDING TATTOO INFECTION

Symptoms of Infected Tattoo: Do not panic if you have any of the following symptoms, they are easy to treat, although you want to catch an infection as soon as possible. Here are some symptoms to watch for:

Extreme redness or irritation –If your tattoo starts looking bubbly and bright red this could be a sign of an infection and you should go see your doctor immediately. Your doctor may prescribe an oral antibiotic and/or an antibiotic topical ointment.

Fever- This is one of the surest signs of a tattoo infection, even if your temperature is just slightly elevated, you should check with your doctor immediately.

Pain- pain should decrease after a few hours. If the pain increases, or you start getting shooting pains then you should check with your doctor.

Swelling- A little swelling is normal just after the application of your tattoo, but if it gets worse or doesn't decrease after a day or two then seek medical attention straight away.

Unusual Odor- If you notice a very unusual smell coming from your tattoo then this could be a sign of infection.

Discharge- If you have any puss coming from your tattoo then this is a sign of an infection, and you need to seek medical attention straight away.

Red Streaks or Sores- if red streaks or sores develop on or around your tattoo then this could indicate a simple infection or something more serious like blood poisoning or a staph infection. Seek medical attention straight away.

Watch closely for symptoms of an infected tattoo. If you see any signs of infection with a fresh tattoo, a visit to the doctor is in short order. Most infections are easily treated with an antibiotic and resuming aftercare procedure. However, significant infections can result in blood poisoning if they are allowed to progress for too long.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS DURING THE HEALING OF YOUR TATTOO,
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TATTOO ARTIST

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