

Your tattoo has been done under clean, professional conditions using disposable single-use tubes & needles and the finest tattooing pigment available.

You just got a tattoo...You are now considered ART!

Now it's up to you to protect your investment, by giving your tattoo the proper care. The chance of infection or damage to your new tattoo is minimal if aftercare instructions are followed correctly.

Tattoo After Care Instructions

If bandaged, leave the bandage on the tattoo for 2–6 hours. No more than 10 hours. The bandage is there to keep air-borne bacteria and other contaminants in the environment from invading your wound. If you must cover your tattoo, it is best to wear cotton.

Before cleaning or touching the tattooed area, **WASH HANDS** thoroughly with soap and warm water. Treat your new tattoo as an open wound. Carefully remove the bandage. If it sticks, gently wet any applied bandage and gently pull off so as not to damage the skin from the tattoo. Don't force its removal!

After removing bandage and during the 2–3 weeks healing process **cleanse tattoo with mild antibacterial soap (Dial soap)** and water using finger tips and hands only. Do not use loofah or anything abrasive on tattoo. Gently remove all traces of blood as it may cause scabbing. Then gently rinse and pat dry with a clean towel. **DO NOT SCRUB, SCRATCH or RUB your tattoo!** After cleaning, lightly apply a thin layer of aftercare product. You may use **A&D ointment or Aquaphor**. Remember to have clean hands when applying any product to tattoo. It is extremely important to keep your tattoo very clean during the healing process. If you happen to introduce dirt or bacteria to your tattoo, you will need to apply antibiotic cream, like **Bacitracin**. Regularly moisturizing a tattoo aids with healing process and keeps colors bright. **DO NOT REBANDAGE**. Your tattoo needs to breathe to heal properly.

Itching is expected. **DO NOT scratch tattoo!** Continue to moisturize tattoo with good quality dermatologist tested lotion, like **Curel or Aveeno** for 2 weeks or more. **DO NOT** allow tattoo to become dry. The goal is to prevent it from scabbing. Pigment is pulled up and out onto the surface when a scab is formed. If scab does form, **DO NOT** pick at it, but allow it to heal on its own. As it heals, expect peeling similar to sunburned skin. Again, **DO NOT pick at it**. Healing generally takes 14 days in a healthy adult.

If you have a reaction, don't panic. You may be allergic to your aftercare product and/or sensitive to one of the ingredients. Although not a major problem, it does happen. The skin can react in a few ways from redness to irritable itchy skin to white pimple like spots. If this occurs, stop using your aftercare product and gently wash off the remaining product from your skin. A reaction to a product should settle down within 24–72 hours. If you are still experiencing a problem after 14 days, it would be doubtful that the aftercare product was to blame and it may be you have had a reaction to the ink. Should this occur, contact the studio for advice from the artist. It may also mean a visit to your physician if the problem persists.

No direct sunlight for 2–3 weeks. This is absolutely vital with red ink, as it can easily develop a photosensitivity and you may experience an intense reaction. With every color of ink, the sun can irreversibly damage well healed tattoos to look blurred or faded. When spending time outdoors, always use a broad spectrum sun block of 30 SPF or higher, even after tattoo is fully healed.

Hands and feet reproduce skin cells much slower than other parts of the body. A tattoo in these areas will sometimes take an extra 2 weeks to heal. During this time refrain from washing dishes, wearing gloves, or wearing socks and shoes (sandals must not rub the tattoo). Any friction of this type **WILL** wear away the tattoo within a very short period of time. If the body part is an extremity, like the ankle, keep it elevated above the level of your heart as much as possible to bring down any swelling. Tattoos in these areas are almost never guaranteed.

DO NOTS

- ◆ Do not soak in water, go swimming or let shower water beat directly on tattoo for 2–3 weeks
- ◆ Do not use Vaseline or other petroleum jellies
- ◆ Do not use heavily medicated antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin
- ◆ Do not use iodine, peroxide, or alcohol based product
- ◆ Do not work out, or do contact sports for 2–3 weeks
- ◆ Do not allow tattoo to be in direct sunlight for 2–3 weeks
- ◆ Do not scratch, rub or pick at your tattoo

You may expect some slight swelling, redness and discomfort around the site. Most problems or irritations may occur from.

- ◆ Scratching or itching a new tattoo
- ◆ Tanning or swimming during the healing process
- ◆ Direct sunlight on tattoo before tattoo has completely healed
- ◆ Using inappropriate amounts or types of aftercare products

Tips & Suggestions

******We are not doctors and these are just suggestions******

If your tattoo gets unbearably itchy, you may use 1% hydrocortisone cream, like Cortaid. Give it a day or so and it should bring down the swelling. If you get a histamine reaction to the tattoo, another way to cut the itching is to take Benadryl. Recognize that it is a measure of the health of your immune system and how it reacts to having pigment inserted into your body.

If bacteria, contaminants or environmental pollutant has gotten into your tattoo then you may need to use antibiotic cream, like Bacitracin or one of the other triple-antibiotics. Do not use a petroleum form (i.e. Neosporin) that would smother the tattoo in grease. Keep in mind, some people may have an allergic reaction to antibiotics and can go into anaphylactic shock, so use sparingly and only when needed.

If after two days you don't see significant improvement or any of the following symptoms appear, promptly consult your health care provider.

- ◆ Unusual drainage
- ◆ Excessive bleeding
- ◆ Excessive pain and discomfort
- ◆ Excessive swelling, redness or feeling that skin is hot to touch
- ◆ Temperature greater than 101°F within 24 hours of the tattoo