

Tattoo Aftercare Instructions

- Depending on type, remove the bandage after 2-48 hours. All wounds need to breathe if they are to heal properly, but the first 2 hours is when your tattoo is most susceptible to infection. Wash your tattoo using a mild, unscented antibacterial soap (such as Dial or Provon) and warm water. Take care to remove all traces of blood and plasma as this will cause scabbing. DO NOT scrub the tattoo with a washcloth or sponge during the healing period. Pat it dry with a clean paper towel, until it starts to feel like the skin is a little tight and dry. This allows for excess moisture to evaporate. DO NOT dry with a cloth towel. They are full of bacteria.
- Once dry, apply a thin layer of ointment to your tattoo. We recommend Aquaphor or other tattoo aftercare products (such as Tattoo Goo, After Inked, etc.). Too much ointment traps germs into your new tattoo which can potentially lead to infection. There should be just enough to keep your tattoo moist and to keep it from scabbing. DO NOT re-bandage your tattoo. Repeat the cycle of washing, drying, and applying ointment to your tattoo about 2-3 times per day for the first week (while the tattoo feels tender).
- After the first 3-5 days, switch to an UNSCENTED moisturizer (such as Eucerin, Lubriderm, Jergens, etc.). Apply moisturizer twice a day for the remaining 2-4 weeks. DO NOT use lotions that contain color or fragrance AT ALL during the healing process (usually 2-4 weeks; possibly longer for slower healers).
- It is perfectly normal to see small flakes of colored skin falling off during the initial healing process. DO NOT peel your tattoo; you will pull the ink out!
- You must keep your tattoo clean, however DO NOT take long showers or baths for the first 2-4 weeks. Prolonged soaking will loosen scabs if any have formed, causing premature fading. This includes NO SWIMMING (in oceans, lakes, rivers, pools, etc.) and NO HOT TUBS/SAUNAS.
- It is normal for the tattoo to become very itchy during the healing time, but DO NOT scratch or pick at it. Disrupting the tattoo while it's healing can cause scarring and/or pull the ink out. DO NOT go tanning (real or fake). Sun on a new tattoo results in faster fading and possible scarring. Once healed, tanning can be resumed with a high quality sunblock. NEVER put sunblock on a fresh tattoo.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the shop at 973-579-1184.

I HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH A PRINTED COPY OF THE AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS. Initials: _____