



Tattoo Aftercare

The first few days and weeks, for a new tattoo, are the most important. Make sure you care for it properly. Below is the healing procedure and do's and don'ts we recommend. We recommend you follow the advice of your **Tattoo Artist**:

1. If you received a gauze bandage leave the bandage that you received after the tattoo on for 2 to 10 hours. Tattoos will ooze, this is a normal part of the healing process. The bandage is there to keep airborne bacteria and any other contaminants in the environment from invading your wound.
2. Make sure your hands have been washed thoroughly before you remove the bandage and before touching your tattoo to wash or apply ointment.
3. After removing the bandage, cleanse the tattooed area with soap and hot/warm water using your hand in a circular motion. Rinse well, leaving no soap residue. Do not scrub the tattoo with a brush or towel (this should not be done until the tattoo has healed). Once rinsed splash with cold water.
4. Let the tattoo air dry completely (approximately 10 minutes)
5. Lightly rub a small amount of your chosen moisturizer (we recommend an unscented lotion, Tattoo Lovers Care, Redemption, etc.) If you notice that your chosen moisturizer seems too heavy or is clogging your pores switch to a thinner unscented healing lotion,
6. You do not need to re-bandage
7. Repeat steps above for 2-3 weeks, approximately three times a day. The idea behind this part of the process is to not let the tattoo dry out.

If you received a Saniderm or similar bandage applied to your tattoo, please care for it as your artist recommended. In the first 24 hours, there may be a buildup of plasma under the bandage. This is normal. You may remove the bandage at any time but recommend leaving it on for the first 24 hours if it maintains its integrity. If it starts leaking remove immediately and wash with soap and water. Then let it air dry and follow the instructions above. When removing the bandage, pull an edge up slowly and wash with soap and water at the same time. Wash and clean as detailed above for 2 weeks.

After a few days, you may notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. It is at this point in the healing process that our tattoo will begin to itch. **RESIST THE URGE TO SATISFY YOUR DESIRE TO SCRATCH, RUB, OR PICK** at the tattoo. **Remember --** the first few days and weeks, for a new tattoo, are probably the most important. Make sure you care for it properly. Consult a physician if you experience symptoms such as excessive swelling, redness, yellow or green discharge or fever.

DO NOT:

1. Go swimming, rafting, or soak in a hot tub, bath or hot spring
2. Use hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol on your tattoo
3. Itch, pick, scratch or shave the tattoo
4. Expose your tattoo to sun or harsh conditions, such as mud, non-potable water, chemicals, flour, food, etc.

DO:

1. Stay out of the sun until your tattoo has healed completely.
2. Apply sun block to tattoo **after** it has healed whenever it is exposed to the sun to protect it from damaging ultraviolet rays.
3. Call us if you have any concerns 970-309-6473, seek medical attention if you believe your tattoo is infected.

