

AFTERCARE

The first few days and weeks (for a new tattoo) are arguably the most important. To avoid potential infection and assure proper healing make sure you care for it properly. Below is the healing procedure and do's and don'ts we recommend. Because each individual is different, this is a general recommendation, should issues occur we recommend you follow the advice of your tattoo artist or seek the advice of a doctor.

1. Leave the bandage that you received after the tattoo on for 1 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.
3. After removing the bandage, clean the tattooed area with soap and water. Do not scrub the tattoo with a brush or towel (this should not be done until the tattoo has healed).
4. Dry the tattooed area by gently patting the area with a clean, paper towel.
5. You do not need to re-bandage.

* in many cases, primarily with **greyscale** work we find lotion is not necessary until after the tattoo flakes (much like a sunburn). This is usually 3-5 days. Once flaked, the skin is waxy, dry, and rough. Applying the lotion at this stage will relieve the itch that accompanies healing and help the skin to recover but if you feel its not necessary that is your decision. **Colour** tattoos being a more intensive process beginning with lotion the second day after the appointment is generally recommended*

6. If using lotion/cream let the tattoo dry completely (approximately 10 minutes) after cleaning.
7. Do not over apply lotion. Water based and unscented is recommended. Twice a day.
8. Joints such as wrists, inside elbow (ditch) and elbow, neck, inside knee, armpits require special care. It's common for these locations to take longer to heal and dry out. Sometimes requiring cleaning every 1-3 hours. If it is leaking plasma or "oozing" this must be washed off before being allowed to dry. If a joint dries and cracks, sometimes polysporin is recommended. Consult artist if trouble occurs.

After a few days you may notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. This is normal. It is at this point in the healing process that our tattoo will begin to itch. **RESIST THE DESIRE TO SCRATCH, RUB, OR PICK** at the tattoo. Consult a physician if you experience symptoms such as excessive swelling, yellow or green discharge, fever.

Some final considerations during the duration of healing:

DO NOT:

1. Go swimming or soak in a hot tub or bath
2. Use hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol on your tattoo
4. Wear tight clothing or have anything rubbing on tattoo
5. Allow anyone to touch the tattoo
6. Have tattoo in exposure to the sun

Apply sun block to tattoo after it has healed whenever it is exposed to the sun to protect it from damaging ultraviolet rays.

I have read and understood aftercare instructions:

Client Signature: _____ Date: _____