

AFTERCARE OF YOUR TATTOO

It is now up to you to take care of your new tattoo properly. Any issues that occur due to improper care is your responsibility. Follow these instructions, and all should be fine.

1. **Bandage:**

Your bandage helps with the healing of your tattoo. This bandage needs to stay on for at least 24 hours and can remain on up to 7 days. If you notice a rash starting, do remove your bandage and follow the rest of the steps as normal.

To remove the bandage, it helps to have your skin tight, so you may want someone to help stretch out the area. Peel the bandage off slowly and gently, you'll likely want to do this in the shower if there is "tattoo sweat" (liquid) under the covering. Gently wash your tattoo with your bare hand, warm water, and mild soap. Do not use a cloth. Pat dry. **DO NOT REBANDAGE.** There will almost definitely be a redness to the skin in the shape of your bandage. This is normal and will fade in a day or two.

2. **Moisturizer:**

You can leave the tattoo dry for 8-12 hours, this is optional and may help reduce the initial sting from applying moisturizer. With clean hands (always), begin moisturizing and plan on applying moisturizer about 3 times a day, depending on your skin needs and how often you must wash the area.

I recommend the use of a gentle moisturizer free from perfumes, dyes, and harsh chemicals. Avoid the use of Neosporin or other petroleum-based products. This is a wonderful product for cuts and scrapes, but not for tattoos. Some can have an allergic reaction to these products, which causes little red bumps. When the bumps go away, so does the ink, and you end up with a splotchy tattoo. I like to use cacao butter or specific tattoo aftercare lotion. I have After Inked pillow packets and Ink Of Coco tins available for sale in my studio.

Whatever you use to moisturize, **you don't need a lot.** If it stings and continues to burn, it's not the right stuff. Wash it off and find something else.

3. **Sun:**

Keep your new tattoo out of sunlight and tanning booths until it is healed (2-3 weeks). Use of sunscreen on your tattoos throughout their life will help keep them looking fresh and crisp. Sun ages our skin, and therefore our tattoos too.

4. **Water:**

Do not soak your tattoo in a tub, sauna, steam room, hot tub, or go swimming while your new tattoo is healing. Showers are fine but do make them quick. A wet scab comes off easily and will pull ink out with it.

5. **Itching:**

Do not rub, scratch, or pick the tattooed area while it is healing. Loss of color and/or infection could occur. Again, when washing your tattoo, use just a mild soap and your bare hand then gently pat dry. If/when it is itchy you can slap it to get some relief.

6. **Time:**

Your tattoo should heal in 2-3 weeks.

7. **When to call a Dr.:**

Consult a physician if any of the following signs or symptoms develop: deep or prolonged redness at site, green/yellow discharge (foul smelling) and/or fever. Larger tattoos may cause some prolonged swelling, however, if this swelling is extremely painful and red you should consult a physician.

More notes on Scabbing, Peeling, & Itching

After a few days, you will notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. Excessive scabbing could indicate a poorly done tattoo, but a little is sometimes normal and there is no need to panic. Do not apply ointment or lotion to a softened scab - wait for it to dry. You will also start to itch, just like a sunburn when it begins to heal. The advice here is, **don't pick, and don't scratch!** If the skin itches, slap it. If it is peeling, put lotion on it. And if it is scabbing, just leave it alone. Your tattoo is almost healed, and now is not the time to ruin it!

Should you have any problems or questions contact me at:

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If you love your new tattoo, please take a moment to give me a [google review](#) and tell your friends to come get one too!

Thanks so much;
Kata