

# Caring for Your New Tattoo

You were tattooed in a modern tattoo studio using single-use and sterilized instruments. Complying with the following instructions will result in a quick healing process and an attractive tattoo. **Remember: the life of your tattoo depends on the care it receives within the first few months!**

ALWAYS wash your hands thoroughly with warm water and an antibacterial soap before touching your unhealed tattoo. Contact with dirty hands and other objects is a major contributor of infection.

Your artist will give you specific directions as how to take care of your tattoo, which will involve one of two basic methods. Please follow those directions specifically.

Wash your tattoo thoroughly with a fragrant-free antibacterial soap and warm water. Be sure to rinse away any secretions and be sure all soap residue is completely rinsed off. Lightly pat dry your tattoo with a clean paper towel. Do not use cloth towels for the first week on your tattoo.

After several days, your new tattoo will develop a layer of dry skin. **DO NOT PICK** this off. After it peels, you will develop a whitish film over the tattoo. This will disappear after 7 to 14 days.

Depending on the nature and extent of your tattoo, it may be necessary to wear clothing heavy enough to protect it, particularly if you work around grease, oil, dirt, metal, etc. Be sure that any clothing that touches your tattoo is soft and clean.

## What to Avoid...

- DO NOT rub, scratch, or pick at your new tattoo.
- DO NOT use A&D Ointment, Neosporin, Vaseline, or petroleum jelly. Avoid fragrant and specialty soaps and lotions (like “skin firming”, “bronzing”, or “age defying”).
- DO NOT expose your new tattoo to sunlight (natural or artificial) at all for the first month. After that, always apply SPF 50 or higher sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Do not shave directly over the tattoo for at least a month.
- DO NOT submerge your tattoo in water for at least 3 weeks. This includes baths, swimming, and saunas.
- DO NOT let animals near your tattoo while it is healing. Both pet slobber and dander can potentially cause an infection.

## What to Expect...

- Your tattoo might produce small amounts of blood and plasma for 24 to 48 hours, especially on tattoos that have a lot of color/black. Make sure to wash this off 2 or 3 times a day and apply lotion after washing.
- The healing process usually takes between 2-3 weeks but can vary from person to person.
- Wear old, clean clothing over tattoo when going to bed to avoid leaking plasma on sheets. This will also prevent your tattoo from becoming stuck to the sheets. If your tattoo sticks to your clothes, soak/dampen with warm water to loosen. **DO NOT yank it off!**
- You might have some soreness and swelling for anywhere from 3 to 5 days.
- Remember, we do not guarantee tattoos on hands and feet, so take care of them to lessen the chances of requiring a paid touch-up!
- When your tattoo is healed, you might notice a spot here or there that needs to be touched-up. If so, let the tattoo heal completely for at least six to eight weeks before seeing your artist about scheduling a touch-up.
- After it is healed, dry skin will cause the tattoo to look dull. To brighten the colors up, use lotion daily, usually after getting out of the shower.
- To extend the life and brightness of your tattoo, always apply SPF 50 or higher sunscreen over your tattoo before going outdoors.

**Once you leave the studio, the tattoo is your responsibility.** If you have any problems or questions, [please contact us first](#)--not the Internet or your friends who *think they know* about tattoos.

**If you are not 100% satisfied for any reason, please come into the studio so we can do what it takes to resolve your issue.**

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