



TATTOO AFTERCARE

YOU JUST GOT A NEW TATTOO! NOW WHAT?!

- *The first 2-3 days the tattooed area should be treated like an open wound to avoid infection
- *Remove bandage and gently wash with cool water and mild soap.
- *Lightly pat dry and with clean hands apply small amount of lotion without added fragrance.
- *aquaphor, lubriderm, curel.
- *Apply a thin film of Ointment 3 x a day for 3 days or whenever skin feels itchy and tight.
- *After the tattoo has healed and the dry skin has flaked off there will be a period of adjustment for the new skin. During this time continue applying the same non-fragrance lotion.
- *You may notice redness, swelling, blood, and tenderness. This is normal and should be expected but should not last longer than a couple of days.

IMPORTANT: Your tattoo is not safe from germs or bacteria until after it's scabbed and peeled, and even then, it is still important that you keep up with aftercare.

Bigger tattoos might require longer to heal, therefore increasing the washing routine one week more is recommended.

DO NOT RE-BANDAGE YOUR TATTOO

DO NOT USE WASHCLOTHS, TOWELS, OR LOOFAHS TO WASH TATTOO

DO NOT SHAVE ON OR NEAR TATTOO

DO NOT WEAR TIGHT CLOTHING OVER TATTOO *BRA STRAPS/WAISTBANDS

DO NOT APPLY ALCOHOL, NEOSPORIN, VASELINE, OR PETROLEUM JELLY

DO NOT APPLY HEAVY COAT OF LOTION OR OINTMENTS

DO NOT EXPOSE YOUR TATTOO TO DIRECT SUNLIGHT, SAUNAS, STEAM, SALTWATER, OR EMERGE IN A TUB OR CHLORINE FOR AT LEAST 2 WEEKS.

*showers are fine

IF YOU NOTICE A FEVER, DRAINAGE THAT SMELLS OR CONTAINS PUS, OR STREAKS RUNNING TOWARDS YOUR HEART FROM TATTOO. GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM IMMEDIATELY.

If you find any light spots after your tattoo has fully healed, please contact me and we will do a touch up free of charge.

ADDITIONAL TATTOO CARE INFO

A new tattoo will ooze all sorts of fluids the first few days including blood, clear plasma, lymphatic fluid, and ink. These are signs your body recognizes the trauma, and is sending cells to repair it. It might not look so great the first few days, but you'll have to trust the process. Use old clean bed sheets that you don't care about the first few nights after getting your tattoo. Your new tattoo will probably leak blood and ink, and stain your sheets.

Expect scabbing, itching, and flaking. Scabs are a protective layer that covers a wound on your skin, aka, the tattoo. It keeps out debris, bacteria, and germs. If scabs are forming, that's a sign that your tattoo is healing properly and your body is doing what it can to repair itself.

The downside to this protective layer is that it may itch a bit, but this should only last a few days.

Your body may feel under-the-weather for a couple days, especially if you got a bigger tattoo. You might even feel like you've got a cold, which is surprisingly normal. The stress that you've put your body through can affect your immune system, and increase your chances of getting sick, but in a few days you should be feeling good as new!

The healing process looks a little different, depending on age, hygiene, and tattoo placement.

Some places like your ribcage, where there isn't a lot of fat or muscle, might take longer to heal than say, a bicep. Either way, everyone goes through similar healing processes.

This is an outline of a typical tattoo healing process:

- Days 1-6: Your fresh tattoo will look red, swollen, and will still be oozing blood, plasma, lymphatic fluid, and ink. This is the messiest time during the healing process, but the oozing should subside after a few days. Scabs will begin to form over your tattoo.
- Days 7-14: The scabs might become itchy, and your skin will start to flake off. This is one of the most important parts of the healing process, because scabs and dead skin falling off will reveal new, healthier skin underneath.

Your tattoo will appear dry and dull during this time. Keep it moisturized.

- Days 15-30: After the scabs and dead skin have flaked off, your tattoo is now fully healed. You shouldn't experience any more swelling, bleeding, or ink leaching.

Don't fret if your tattoo still doesn't look very crisp and bright; the deeper layers of your skin still need to repair themselves, which is why aftercare is still important even after your tattoo is healed.

Drink LOTS of water. Your tattoo only looks as good as your skin. The more you hydrate, the better, and more vivid your tattoo will look.