



# AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

*Always wash your hands before caring for your new tattoo.*

1. Keep the bandage on for no longer than 30 minutes (DO NOT RE-WRAP). You may see blood or clear liquid under the bandage. This is normal.
2. Take the bandage off slowly and wash the tattoo with **non-scented antibacterial soap** and water and apply a thin layer of Ointment to the tattoo.
3. Use ointment for one week. Apply only a thin amount of ointment 3-5 times a day and always wash your tattoo with **non-scented antibacterial soap** and water before applying a new layer.
4. Also use **clean** bed linens and bath towels throughout the healing period.
5. After one week of using the ointment, switch to **non-scented lotion**. Alcohol is used to add scents in lotion, and that will cause your ink to dry up and scab.
6. Yes, you can (and should!) shower with a new tattoo. It's OK to get your tattoo wet - just don't soak it or scrub it. To clean it, apply a small amount of **non-scented antibacterial soap** on hand and rub it gently over tattoo. Submerging your tattoo in a bath or hot tub can cause serious damage, so avoid those for 2-3 weeks. Showering is perfectly fine as long as you don't saturate your tattoo. Swimming in a pool, fresh water or salt water should be avoided for at least 2-3 weeks.
7. In the process of your new tattoo healing, it will become very itchy. **DON'T SCRATCH OR PICK AT YOUR TATTOO**. It will peel, but let dead skin fall off on its own. At this stage your tattoo is almost healed, and now is not the time to ruin it!
8. Tanning will NOT be good on the site of the tattoo during the healing phase, and it is suggested to use sunscreen over bright tattoos after 2 weeks of being healed to preserve their color. Going to the gym is OK, but protect your tattoo from the gym equipment and germs.

Tattoos breach the skin, which means that skin infections and other complications are possible, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Tattoo dyes — especially red, green, yellow and blue dyes — can cause allergic skin reactions, such as an itchy rash at the tattoo site. This can occur even years after you get the tattoo.
- **Skin infections.** A skin infection is possible after tattooing.
- **Other skin problems.** Sometimes an area of inflammation called a granuloma can form around tattoo ink. Tattooing also can lead to keloids — raised areas caused by an overgrowth of scar tissue.
- **Bloodborne diseases.** If the equipment used to create your tattoo is contaminated with infected blood, you can contract various bloodborne diseases — including methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

If you think you are having a problem, feel free to call the shop at (720) 282-3373 or come in to show us. If you experience abnormal symptoms after the procedure such as: infection, yellow or green pus discharge from the tattoo site, extreme pain, or swelling,

**PLEASE CONTACT A PHYSICIAN IMMEDIATELY!**

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Body Artist

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Date