

Tattoo Aftercare

The first few days and weeks for your new tattoo are the most important; please make sure you care for it properly! Below are the healing procedures we recommend; because each individual is different, this may not be the best recommendation for you. Always follow the advice of your tattoo artist or seek the advice of a doctor if you have any concerns with healing.

Dry-Heal Method

1. Leave the bandage that you received after the tattoo on for **approximately 4 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 ever touch or remove the bandage.
3. After removing the bandage take a damp **sterile gauze** or **damp, CLEAN disposable towel** to **GENTLY DAB** the tattoo. This removes any excess seepage on the tattoo to prevent excessive scabbing in the healing process. Do not **wash** the tattoo now **UNLESS** you believe it has been contaminated, in which case, clean the area with a mild, unscented soap.
4. Leave the tattoo exposed to the air, uncovered if possible. If not, wear **CLEAN**, loose clothing over top to allow the tattoo to breathe.
5. If the tattoo has touched anything between the tattoo service and the end of your day or has become contaminated, wash the tattoo right away. If not, wash in the morning.
Wash with mild unscented soaps only. Avoid harsh scented soaps, they will irritate and delay healing.
6. Dry the tattoo by **gently** patting with a **sterile gauze pad, or air drying. DO NOT SCRUB OR USE A TOWEL/CLOTH.** Let the tattoo dry completely, **DO NOT BLOW ON THE TATTOO.**
7. You do **not** need to rebandage the tattoo at this point as it can trap moisture and delay healing.
8. Repeat the steps above, clean your tattoo **approximately 3-4 times a day**, for roughly 2 weeks.
9. After a few days you will begin to notice some peeling and possibly some scabbing. Some scabbing is normal. It is at this point in the healing process your tattoo will begin to itch. **RESIST THE URGE TO SCRATCH, RUB, OR PICK the tattoo.**
10. On **day three** of the healing process after each washing of the tattoo, and once it is fully dry, take a very small amount of **TATTOO SPECIFIC moisturizer**, just enough to lightly cover the tattoo and keep it from drying out completely. **DO NOT USE TOO MUCH**, as too much can smother the tattoo and delay healing.

Second-Skin Method

1. Leave the second skin bandage on for the length of time your tattoo artist advised. Pooling of ink/plasma inside of the second skin is normal. Some peeling around the edges of the bandage is okay and excess can be trimmed off, as long as there are no openings in the bandage. If a seam/opening on the edges appears that liquid can come into or escape out of, or if the bandage is coming off and exposing the tattoo, take it off **IMMEDIATELY**.
2. Make sure your **hands have been washed thoroughly** before you remove the bandage.
3. If the bandage comes off earlier than the 3 day mark, follow the above Dry-Healing method.
4. To remove the bandage, place the tattoo under lukewarm clean running water and **SLOWLY** lift the bandage up and away to help break that seal effectively.
5. Wash the tattoo, dry it and moisturize right away after removing the bandage on day 5, then follow steps 5-10 as seen above in the Dry-Healing method steps (disregard the start on day three timeline of step 10 in the dry heal of course)

Things to Avoid During Healing:

- Swimming, soaking tattoos in the bath or hot tub
- Using hydrogen peroxide, vaseline, or rubbing alcohol on tattoo
 - Itching, picking, or scratching your tattoo
 - Participating in activities that will make you sweat
 - Sun exposure, especially in first 2 weeks of healing
 - Going to bed without fresh bed sheets, wearing dirty clothing
- NEVER pull off fabric/material that has gotten stuck to a tattoo using force, always **wet** and gently remove from tattoo

Tattoo Longevity Tips:

When your tattoo is fully healed, always apply sunscreen when going outside

Leftover tattoo aftercare products can be used to keep the skin moisturized and shine up any tattoo

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