

Tattoo Aftercare

You've treated yourself right to a beautiful tattoo. Now treat it right too and it will be perfect forever.

Basically you have the rule of 3's 3 days of washing and applying ointment and do it 3 times a day. From the 4th day on, shower normally and use mild lotion until the tattoo has fully healed.

Step 1- Remove the bandage after you've gotten back to a clean area to wash it. All wounds need to breathe to heal so you will not need to re-bandage. Wash the tattoo using your fingertips or hand only. Use a mild antibacterial soap and warm water. Take care to remove all traces of blood and excess ink. Please don't scrub hard or use a wash cloth. Always gently pat the tattoo dry with a clean soft cloth or just let it air dry. Your tattoo may weep excess plasma or ink the first few days. That's OK. Be sure to keep washing it off all will be well.

After washing apply a thin coat of ointment. I prefer Aquaphor ,or A&D ointment. Work it in well. Dab off all the excess with a paper towel. You should barely be able to tell that it's there... This is just enough to keep the tattoo moist and to keep it from scabbing.

Step 2- Repeat Step 1 for 3 days. And do it 3 times a day

Step 3- On the 4th day just washing once a day is fine and start using a mild lotion. Apply whenever the tattoo is feeling stiff or dry but beware of over-moisturizing. Your body will absorb what it needs where it needs it. Use a regular non medicated moisturizer like Aveeno, Eucerin, Keri, Lubriderm, Curel, or Jergens,. Apply moisturizer twice a day for a couple weeks. Do not use lotions that contain color, fragrance or sparkles until the healing is complete.

Your skin will form a protective layer no matter what you do. If you do not keep it moist or keep it will form a thick, hard scab that may crack when you move. When the tattoo is kept moist it doesn't have a chance to form a scab but does form a thin membrane to protect the tattoo while it heals. This layer peels off very similar to a sunburn (do not peel your tattoo, you will pull the ink out!) and it is normal to see small flakes of colored skin falling off during this stage of healing.

Swimming in the Ocean or a Pool, Hot Tubs, and Saunas are a off limits for 2 weeks.

The Sun is BAD for your tattoo, even if you've had it for a long time. A sunburn on a new tattoo can cause a lot of problems. It will dry out your tattoo and cause it to form a horrendous scab much of the time causing the tattoo to fade before it is even healed. It promotes scarring in a new tattoo. Wait until it is fully healed to go back in the sun or a tanning bed and make sure you put on a high quality SUNBLOCK. (Do not apply sunblock while the tattoo is healing.) The tattoo is under your skin, and your tan will form above it. If you get too dark, some colors (white, yellow, pink, and orange) may not show up as brightly as they could. Over time, excessive exposure to sunlight will cause your tattoo to fade no matter what colors are used.

Please refrain from scratching or picking at the tattoo. It is normal for the tattoo to become very itchy during the healing time. So suck it up and put some sox on your hands. You can definitely damage your tattoo by scratching it.

Now that I've scared you into taking good care of your tattoo, I hope you like your new tattoo. I am looking forward to future tattoo projects with you. Call or e-mail me any time if you have any questions. See you soon.

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