

hair. Also, if you choose to use a blade razor, exercise extreme caution. Your tattoo is so close to being successfully healed at this point, the last thing you want to do now is open it up a little longer.

To find out if you're 100 percent healed, perform this simple skin test to see if it's safe to shave again: run the tips of your fingers across and around your tattoo. Are there any bumps, raised areas? These are tell-tale signs that your skin is not back to normal. Your tattooed area should feel exactly the same as the skin around it. If you can tell (by touch) where your tattoo begins and ends, or feel any skin irregularities, you need to wait a little longer.

What to Avoid

6. Avoid tight-fitting clothes. Avoid wearing tight or restrictive clothing on the area with your new tattoo, especially at first. As your tattoo heals, it will seep plasma and excess ink, which may cause the clothing to stick to the tattoo. The clothing will then be painful to remove and may rip off any freshly formed scabs. If your clothing does stick to your tattoo, do not pull! First wet the area with water, which should loosen the clothing to where it can be removed without damaging your tattoo. In addition, tight clothing will prevent enough oxygen from getting to your tattoo, and oxygen is essential for the healing process. Aim to wear clean, loose-fitting clothing, day, and night, while your tattoo is healing.

7. Avoid swelling. Swelling may occur with new tattoos on your hands, feet, ankles or calves, especially if you have been standing for long periods of time. If this happens, you can reduce swelling by taking an Ibuprofen, applying an ice pack to the swollen area, and elevating your feet and legs.

8. Avoid working out & sports. Tattoos that cover large surface areas, or are near joints (such as elbows and knees), may take longer to heal if the skin is forced to move around too much during intense workouts or other physical activity. The movement will cause the skin to crack and become irritated, prolonging the tattoos healing process. For this reason, you should avoid unnecessary workouts for at least a few days after getting a new tattoo. If you're involved in a self-defense class like karate or sports, you may want to warn your classmates so they can avoid hitting you in the wrong place. If you work in a job that involves physical activity, such as construction or dance, you may want to consider having your new tattoo done on a Friday, so it will have the whole weekend to heal before your go back to work.

Appointments

Appointments require a deposit to hold you a spot with your artist. Deposits will go towards the overall price of your tattoo. To cancel an appointment or to reschedule contact us 24 hours before your appointment. All deposits are non refundable if you do not show-up or call.

Custom Drawings

Our artist will create custom works of art for your next tattoo just stop in and talk with us we are happy to listen to your ideas and translate them into tattooable works of art. All custom drawings require a deposit that will go towards the overall price of the tattoo. Deposits are non refundable if you never show-up.

Touch-ups

We offer free touch-ups on every tattoo we do no matter the placement. You have 6 months to get your tattoo touched up or there may be a small fee for the procedure.

Aftercare products

It is important to us that your tattoo's heal successfully so we offer free aftercare with every tattoo.

Experience

Getting a tattoo should be a positive experience from the moment you walk in the door to the end of the tattoo procedure as this will carry with you for a lifetime.

* DISCLAIMER: These guidelines are based on a combination of vast professional experience, common sense, research and extensive clinical practice. This is not to be considered a substitute for medical advice from a doctor. If you suspect an infection, seek medical attention. Be aware that many doctors have not received specific training regarding tattoos. Your local artist may be able to refer you to a tattoo-friendly medical professional.

Gallery X Art Collective

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Tue-Thur 1:00 - 9:00 - Fri - Sat 1:00 - 10:00
Sun - Mon Appointment only

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TATTOOS • PIERCINGS
FINE BODY JEWELRY



SUGGESTED AFTERCARE GUIDELINES FOR TATTOOS

How to Care for a New Tattoo

1. Leave the covering on for 2-5 hours.

Once you have left Gallery X resist the temptation to open the bandage. The bandage is there to protect your tattoo from airborne bacteria, which can penetrate through your broken skin. The bandage should be left on for a minimum of two hours before you remove it.

2. Carefully remove the bandage.

Keep your tattoo covered for a minimum of two hours before removing, but the recommended maximum amount of time varies between 3 and 5 hours. You should also use your judgement and common sense. To remove the bandage, soak it with warm water to prevent it from sticking to your skin. It should come off easily once wet.

3. Washing your tattoo.

Gently wash the tattoo in lukewarm water with an antimicrobial soap like Provon once a day. Use your hands to rub the tattoo gently, removing all traces of blood, plasma, or leaked ink. This will help to prevent the tattoo from scabbing. Do not use a washcloth, loofah or any sponge to clean the tattoo, as these may harbor bacteria and may cause irritation. Do not hold the tattoo directly under the water. Wash it indirectly by splashing the water over the tattoo with your hands. The stream of water from the faucet may be too harsh on your new tattoo. If your new tattoo is covering a large area of skin, it may be easiest to wash the tattoo in the shower.

4. Drying your tattoo

Once you have thoroughly washed the tattoo, you should gently pat it dry with a paper towel. Do not rub the tattoo, as this may cause irritation. Once the excess moisture has been removed, you should leave the tattoo uncovered for 20 minutes to an hour. This will allow the tattoo to breathe and any excess moisture to evaporate. You should allow your tattoo to breathe like this after each time you wash it or get it wet.

5. Applying ointment.

Apply Redemption or Hustle Butter. Once your tattoo is fully dry and the skin begins to feel tight you can apply a little ointment. Make sure to apply only a very thin amount and rub it in gently until it's absorbed by the skin. It's very important that you don't apply too much ointment, or else you'll suffocate the tattoo and encourage the growth of bacteria. You should continue applying the ointment after each time you wash the tattoo, at least twice a day, for 3 to 5 days or until the tattoo starts to peel. When it does you can switch to a regular, fragrance-free lotion. Don't use lanolin or petroleum-based products, such as Vaseline, as these are too heavy and may clog the pores, causing breakouts on the tattoo. They also draw the ink from the tattoo to the surface of the skin, causing the tattoo to fade before it's even fully healed.

Continued care

6. Continued care.

You should continue to wash and moisturize your tattoo with Provon soap and warm water until it is fully healed. This can take anywhere from 3 to 6 six weeks, depending on the size and location of the tattoo. You should wash more often if the tattoo is on your hand, wrist, foot, or any other area that is more exposed to germs. After applying ointment for the first 3 to 5 days, you can switch to regular lotion after each wash. Avoid using lotions that are scented, colored or contain glitter. Remember only to apply a light layer of lotion, as over-moisturizing can negatively affect the tattoo.

The initial healing of the tattoo will take up to two weeks. During this time, you can expect the tattoo to start peeling or flaking, in a similar way to sunburn. Some colored skin may shed away as the tattoo peels, but this is entirely normal. After the skin peels, your tattoo will look glossy and feel tight. It may also have cloudy or white patches of skin that you will be tempted to peel off, but try to resist. This is referred to as "onion skin" and will fall off by itself within a couple of weeks.

What to Avoid

1. Do not scratch or pick at your tattoo. As it heals, if scabbing occurs you should allow it to dry out and fall off by themselves. Do not try to help the process along by picking at the scabs. This may cause the scabs to fall off prematurely, leaving holes or light spots on your tattoo that can cause scarring. If your hands or nails are unclean; you may also cause the tattoo to become infected. You should always wash your hands with antimicrobial soap before touching your tattoo, and you should never allow anyone else to touch it while it heals. Dry scabbing or peeling skin can become very itchy, but scratching at your tattoo may also cause scabs to fall off. You can relieve itching by slapping the tattoo with the flat of your hand, or by rubbing in a little lotion.

2. Avoid soaking the tattoo. Until your tattoo is fully healed, you should avoid swimming in a pool, in the sea, or even soaking in the bathtub. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, exposing your tattoo to too much water may draw ink out of your skin and damage the tattoo's appearance. Secondly, the water in swimming pools, the sea, and the bathtub may be carrying dirt, bacteria, chemicals and other impurities that could cause your tattoo to become infected. It will be completely safe to resume these activities once your tattoo is healed, but for now you should stick to rinsing your tattoo in the sink or shower. Keep your showers and baths short, under 5-10 minutes.

3. Do not expose your new tattoo to a tanning-bed or direct sunlight. Tanning is the worst enemy of new tattoos. The harsh rays of the sun or concentrated UV from a tanning-bed may cause your skin to blister and bleach some of the colors from your tattoo. For this reason, it is best to keep your tattoo out of the sun for at least 3 to 4 weeks, until

the initial healing is complete. After that, you will still need to protect your tattoo by wearing a minimum of SPF 50. This will prevent your tattoo from fading in the sun, keeping the colors true for longer.

NEVER COVER YOUR TATTOO IN A TANNING BED
Don't Be a Gambler

Your tattoo is an investment, so don't gamble on that investment by not properly caring for it. It takes very little effort to either cover up or safeguard your tattoo with sunscreen. Proper care can keep a tattoo looking vibrant for years to come.

NEVER PUT SUNBLOCK ON FRESH TATTOOS.

4. Avoid Shaving over a New Tattoo. When you get a tattoo, the area will be completely shaved before it's applied, so at least you're starting off with smooth skin. However, after a couple of days stubble and bristly skin will begin to annoy you and the urge to shave can be overwhelming. The wound is still fresh, and especially if you have any scabbing or raised areas, you run the risk of damaging your artwork by running a razor across it. Chemical hair removers are just as bad (if not worse) you never want to put any kind of a chemical solution on a fresh tattoo. Of course, you can shave the area around the tattoo. Just be sure any and all creams, gels, and/or hair follicles are cleaned away from the tattoo immediately afterward and a new razor is used. Once that is done, you can safely apply the ointment or lotion. So, exactly when will it be safe to shave again? Your tattoo will go through several different stages of healing. One of the last stages is the peeling stage. Once you've gotten past the peeling stage, your skin will start to regenerate and produce a new protective layer over your tattoo. Once this new layer has appeared, it is usually safe to shave again. I say "usually" because there is always that one in a million chance that your skin is so super sensitive it will become irritated. Depending on your tattoo, and your own body's ability to heal, the healing process can take anywhere from five days to two months in most cases. Once completely healed shaving is ok.

How to Test Your Skin's Health at Home

Warning

Sometimes a tattoo can remain slightly raised for as long as a few months. This can be very frustrating and physically uncomfortable to the wearer because it's taking so long to heal and it will feel itchy. In this case, if the tattoo is completely healed otherwise, with no open sores or scabs, an electric razor is your best option. You can even use a chemical hair remover at this point, but be sure to leave it on for only the minimum time required to remove the unwanted

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