

TATTOO

FACT SHEETS

Tattoo Removal & Cover-ups

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If you have a tattoo that you have come to regret or don't like there are ways to alter it or completely remove the tattoo. This fact sheet will list three of the most common techniques used to alter or remove a tattoo.



Cover-ups

An older tattoo can be covered with a new design and color. You will only have one chance to cover the tattoo with another so think carefully about what you want and choose an artist who has a lot of experience with tattooing over existing tattoos.

Tattoo Removal

There are various ways to remove a tattoo. Tattoo removal creams advertise that you can fade away the tattoo by simply covering the skin with certain ointments. Don't be fooled—if creams removed tattoos they would have to be so strong that they would also damage the skin.

The most effective way to remove a tattoo is by a laser machine—intense light waves are beamed into the tattoo pigment and break it into small particles

that the immune system removes from the body. Laser tattoo removal usually requires multiple treatments and it can be very expensive. Once the treatment is completed it will take several weeks for the tattoo to completely fade away. Although uncommon, there are risks with laser removal, such as a change in skin color, infection and scarring. This is why it's so important to make sure that you get the tattoo that you will want to live with for the rest of your life.

Make-up

Creams that are matched to the color of the skin are an effective way to temporarily cover-up a tattoo.

