

TATTOO

FACT SHEETS

Tattoo Aftercare

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Your tattoo artist will give you instructions on how to take care of your tattoo between visits and after the tattoo has been completed. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully and call your tattoo artist if you develop any signs of infection or if you do not understand any of the instructions. This fact sheet will list general aftercare tips to keep your tattoo from becoming infected.

- The tattoo artist will apply a thin coat of ointment to the tattoo and bandage it to protect your tattoo
- Take off the bandage after one hour (but no more than two hours) to let it breathe and to help it heal
- Gently wash the tattoo with warm water and anti-bacterial soap – gently dry the skin
- The tattoo artist will instruct you on the type of ointment to apply to the tattoo. You want enough ointment to moisturize and protect the tattoo, but not so much that it would prevent the skin from breathing and healing. Re-apply as needed
- After the first couple of days you can switch to a general fragrance free moisturizer – moisturize as needed – but not too much
- Do not scratch or pick at the tattoo – it could become infected or scarring can occur
- Keep the tattoo clean and free of infection
- Keep the tattoo out of the sun. The sun is the enemy of the skin and a tattoo – wear protective clothing. Once the tattoo heals wear sunblock.
- Any signs of infections or problems – call your tattoo artist or check in with your doctor



There are two people who will keep your tattoo infection free— you and the tattoo artist. Be sure to follow the aftercare instructions and protect your tattoo from the sun so that it can last you a lifetime.

