Tattoo Prices

Just like every design piece is different, the price of a tattoo is also different. Probably the best advice is to make an appointment to talk with a tattoo artist, discuss the type of tattoo you want and have the artist give you an estimate. There are many factors that should be considered when you are asking for a quote:

• Overhead: there are many expenses that the tattoo artist must take into consideration when charging for a tattoo, such as the basic cost of running the tattoo shop—rent, gas/electricity/water, insurance, fixtures (chairs, tables, décor), and cleaning service for the main floor and bathroom(s). If your tattoo artist is renting the space in an established parlor then a portion of the charges go directly back to the tattoo owner.

• Supplies: the tattoo artist will need to pay for some or all of the equipment, ink, stencil paper, protective gear, etc.

• Location: different parts of the body require more or less amounts of time and affect how much the tattoo will cost.

• Size: this affects the price more than any other factor.

• Design: the detail and complexity of the design will affect the overall cost.

• Black and White or Color: colorful (especially bold colors) is generally more expensive than black and white.

Typically, flash tattoos are flat rates and can range from $50 to $100.00 or more. Custom tattoos are generally by the hour—hourly charges can range from $50.00 to $300.00 an hour or more depending on the experience and reputation of the artist. You should also tip the tattoo artist anywhere from 10 to 20% of the total price of the tattoo.

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

Discount tattoos: you probably don’t want to get a discount tattoo—remember that the experience and artistry of the person who is giving you a tattoo are more than worth the price. Remember you get what you pay for. Don’t go cheap!—you just might get a tattoo you that you later regret or something worse because safety was compromised for profit.