

# TATTOO

## FACT SHEETS



### Tattoo Removal



The reasons for getting a tattoo removed are too many to list here. But some of the most common reasons for having tattoos removed are poor design and execution, inappropriate words, having a former lover's name inked, or aging of the tattoo. It could be holding back someone's professional career or personal life or someone just doesn't like their tattoo anymore. This is why it's so important to think carefully about the reason for and the design of the tattoo as well as hiring a professional tattoo artist to tattoo you.

In the past, the most common tattoo removal techniques included:

- Dermabrasion—using brushes, sandpaper, acids etc., to wear away the layers of skin and with it the tattoo
- Cryosurgery—this involves freezing the tattoo to remove it
- Surgical—basically this involves cutting out the tattoo

These procedures were costly, painful and imprecise.



Today the most common procedure to remove a tattoo is by laser—concentrated light—that targets the ink in the tattoo to dissolve it. This requires many laser treatments over time and it is very expensive. In addition, the use of a laser to remove a tattoo is controversial. There have been reports of cancer or tumors from laser removal sites. The theory for this is that the ink itself is a possible cancer causing agent; but in a solid form (given as a tattoo) it is stable and doesn't lead to cancer. The laser will break down the dye into a liquid form that is unstable and could possibly cause cancer. The possibility of having to remove a tattoo is another reason to carefully choose a design and artist so that you can wear the tattoo lifelong and with pride.

