

TATTOO

FACT SHEETS

Temporary Tattoos

AUTHOR:
ALAN FRANCISCUS

A very popular form of tattooing is temporary tattoos. The types of temporary tattoo can be ink transfers, airbrush, and henna tattoos.



- **INK TRANSFERS** became popular around the turn of the 19th century. These tattoo transfers were sold in sheets and were given as prizes, such as those included in Cracker Jack boxes. In the past ink transfers were made with food coloring. Today, ink transfers are made from a variety of mediums, such as food dyes and special types of synthetic dyes. There may even be dyes that have special perfumes. Transfer tattoo designs range from simple to intricate with designs geared toward children or adult or even X-rated. Another type uses designs to promote certain products or events. Typically these tattoos only last for a short time, but some may last for days and weeks if care is taken.
- **HENNA TATTOOS** (also called Mehndi) are a form of temporary tattoos made from the dye of the Henna plant. Henna tattoo designs are usually very intricate and can be placed anywhere on the body, but the most popular place is on the hands – back of the hand, fingers and palms. Henna tattoos can last up to a month or longer depending on where the tattoo is located and on how well the person takes care of it.
- **AIRBRUSH TATTOOS** are applied to the skin with an airbrush tool. A stencil of the design is placed on the skin and the ink is sprayed directly onto the skin. Airbrush tattoos look very realistic and can last anywhere from days to a week.

SAFETY Anything you apply to the skin has the potential to cause allergic reaction or infection if the dyes and instruments are re-used. Protect yourself by making sure to disinfect the skin, keep the area clean and use single-use only ink. There have been reports of infections and scarring as a result of contaminated Henna dyes.

