

Tattoo Aftercare

There is no “ONE WAY” to care for a tattoo. It varies based on each individual body type and the way in which the body heals itself. In addition, lifestyle is equally impactful on healing a tattoo. So we suggest taking your multi-vitamin (if you take one), eating healthy (your fruits and veggies) and getting a good night's sleep!

It is normal to experience some pain, burning, stinging, redness, swelling, seeping fluid, and tightness of skin within the first 7-10 days of getting your tattoo. However depending on health, environment, body part, size and amount of tattoo work done, that time can be shorter, or longer! For example, feet can easily take longer due to movement, rubbing against socks/shoes/sandals, and the natural flow of the body's blood and lymph systems. Pay attention to your body and what it needs. If you have a question or concern, contact us immediately! Waiting even just a day or two can make a big difference!

It is extremely important to follow the aftercare instruction your artist has given you. ALWAYS consult with your artist prior to changing the instructions or trying something different that you've read on the internet or heard from a family/friend/another artist/etc. Your artist is a professional who knows what you are going through, and how to help you if needed.

tatu-derm:

We use TATU-DERM as an initial healing wrap on all our tattoos. What is Tatu-Derm? It's a thin medical grade adhesive wrap that creates a bacterial barrier which eliminates contamination of the tattoo area and promotes quicker healing.

- **If you have ONLY AN OUTLINE OR LETTERING:** Keep the TATU-DERM on for 12hours.
- **For ALL OTHER TATTOOS:** Keep the TATU-DERM on for 12-24hours. Leaving the TATU-DERM on for 24 hours will provide the best results as long as the tattoo continues to be producing fluid.

The reasons for which you should remove the TATU-DERM wrap early are as follows:

- Your body is not seeping much fluid and the tattoo underneath is dry, and not moisturized by fluid.
- The wrap has “Sprung a Leak” and the fluid is not remaining trapped under the wrap to moisturize the tattoo.
- The skin underneath and/or around the tattoo appears red, raised or irritated.

Removing Tatu-Derm:

The best method to remove the Tatu-Derm wrap is in the shower. Removing the Tatu-Derm should be the last thing you do before exiting the shower. Complete all your normal shower activities and cleaning BEFORE removing the wrap. Allow warm water to saturate around the wrap. Then remove the wrap by gently pulling the wrap down and away from your body with the wrap and tattoo under the shower water. Slow and steady pulling will remove the wrap without damage to your skin or your tattoo. Now that your tattoo is exposed, before exiting the shower, wash your tattoo with an anti-microbial soap.

Rinse the tattoo well by allowing the shower water to run over it for several minutes. Upon exiting the shower, DO NOT dry your fresh tattoo with your towel. Use a clean piece of paper towel and gently PAT DRY your tattoo. Allow your tattoo to air dry for several minutes and then apply a thin layer of the tattoo ointment aftercare you purchased.

We have noticed on a few clients once the TATU-DERM was removed within 1-3 days a small itchy rash will develop AROUND the tattoo but not ON the tattoo itself. It tends to happen when the pores of the skin are more open, and are exposed to more of the adhesive. Therefore, we suggest removing the TATU-DERM prior to any activity or exercise that will cause sweating. If a rash does occur, DO NOT SCRATCH it, just continue to care for your tattoo as normal and wash the rash with the anti-microbial soap once daily until gone.

Continue to care for your tattoo by following the tattoo aftercare instructions here.

If you have any questions or concerns about the healing of your tattoo, please COME INTO the shop. It's helpful to see your question/concern IN PERSON, that way we'll be able to more effectively help you!