



## Tattoo Aftercare

### Caring for Your Tattoo

Remove the bandage within 4 hours.

Wash the tattoo thoroughly with **anti-bacterial soap or Dove Unscented soap** and warm water.

Pat dry with a paper towel.

Apply a small amount of either **Weber's Unscented Vitamin E lotion, Unscented Lubriderm** or **Stay Gold** to the surface of the tattooed area. Don't use an excessive amount, only a thin layer is required. Re-apply your aftercare whenever the tattoo feels dry or itchy (*on average, 4 - 5 times daily*).

On average, tattoos tend to take **1 & ½ - 2 weeks to heal completely**.

Always wash your hands before applying your aftercare product.

### Don'ts

Do not soak or submerge your tattoo in water while it's healing. This could result in loss of colour, scarring or vulnerability to infection.

Do not wear tight clothing over your tattoo or rebandage it while it's healing. This will block off oxygen; as well as trap in bacteria. This could cause your tattoo to heal improperly, or become infected.

Do not pick or scratch your tattoo while it's healing, this will cause healing complications. If the tattoo has been noticeably picked at, we will be unable to offer free touch ups.

Do not expose your tattoo to direct sunlight or go tanning for 2 weeks or until your tattoo is fully healed. After this time, do not expose yourself to any prolonged sunlight without the use of sunscreen. This extends the life of your tattoo. Sunlight kills skin cells; these cells then fall off, causing the colour and quality of your tattoo to fade.

Showering is fine, but try not to let your shower head hit your tattoo directly while it's healing.

Do not use any petroleum based products i.e.; Vaseline, Neosporin, Polysporin etc... They do not allow the skin to breathe properly, and may cause improper healing.

Do not allow your tattoo to dry out while it's healing. Proper application of your aftercare product will prevent excessive scabbing or loss of colour.

## Possible Complications

It is normal for your tattoo to remain red, irritated & sore for a few days after your tattoo has been finished. In some cases, bruising may appear as well & is completely normal. If necessary, you can always use an anti-inflammatory.

It is possible for you to be allergic to inks or aftercare. If you do experience an allergic reaction, contact Uxbridge Body Art and we can guide you into the right direction regarding how to treat your reaction.

It is possible for areas such as feet, hands and necks to heal out with light or missing spots. This unfortunately is the nature of those areas, and **Uxbridge Body Art cannot guarantee work done on these areas**. Instead of the usual free touch ups (*within the first year*), all touch ups on hands, feet and necks will cost a **minimum of \$25.00 + applicable taxes**.

It is possible for infection to occur depending on how your tattoo has been cared for. Signs and symptoms of an infection are; swelling, soreness and redness (*lasting longer than a few days*), fogginess and discharge.

## Helpful Tips

On most areas (*excluding, hands, feet, the neck & pieces that are noticeably picked at*) touch ups are free within the first year. After that, touch ups are charged as if the piece were brand new.

Ensure you thoroughly clean your hands before touching your new tattoo.

While not recommended by our Artist, if you decide to cover your tattoo while healing; use a single use dressing intended to cover wounds.

Washing your new tattoo with your fingertips as opposed to a washcloth or loofah will feel more comfortable.

Allow your tattoo to be exposed to oxygen whenever possible, while still applying your aftercare product.

Keep your tattoo clean & dry.

If you notice any signs of an infection within 24 hours, either make an appointment to see your family physician or go to emergency.

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