

## TATTOO AFTERCARE

**Step 1:** Remove the bandage after a 45 minute period.

**Step 2:** Wash your tattoo (*be sure to wash your hands first!*). Try to use a liquid antibacterial soap (dishwashing soap), otherwise an all-natural body wash or bar soap will do. Lather the tattoo with the soap and warm running water. Be sure to give the tattoo a fairly rigorous scrub on the first day to expel the dried blood plasma and any excess ink. Rinse thoroughly and repeat as necessary.

**Step 3:** Pat the tattoo dry using a paper towel or clean cloth. Allow the tattoo to air dry for an additional 5-10 minutes before moving on to step 4.

**Step 4:** Apply a thin layer of (Aquaphor) skin healing ointment to your tattoo. You may buy this ointment yourself or use an ointment provided by the tattoo shop.

**(Continue steps 2-4 for the next 2 weeks and do them twice a day.)**

Feel free to use a non-scented, all-natural body lotion for the last week of healing. Some suggested brands (*included but not limited to*): Eucerin, Aveeno, Lubriderm, Cetaphil, Curel, and Vaseline.

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**Precautions during healing;** Full healing time is 14 to 20 days, but most of these precautions apply to the first week of healing and are as follows:

Keep the tattoo out of direct sunlight. Use a bandana and tie around for those tricky body areas. You can also cut off a long sleeve from a shirt or panty hose and wear them over the tattoo if you absolutely must be in the sun. After the first 48 hours of having your tattoo, you may apply sunblock to it.

Keep the tattoo out of salt or chlorinated water; Fresh water is acceptable, but can still ruin a tattoo if soaked for a long period. Always wash your tattoo if you are unsure of the water it made contact with.

As best as you can; keep the tattoo from contact with pets and animals as their dander and fur have traces of harmful bacteria. Immediately wash your tattoo if this happens.

Your tattoo will leave an imprint/stain on your light colored clothing and bedding. Be sure to wear darker colored/clean clothing, maybe something you don't mind getting ink on, for the first 48 hours.

Tattoos below the knee tend to have a low blood circulation; incline the leg with the tattoo every so often to alleviate swelling. Taking a Benadryl or using an anti-inflammatory topical like Preparation H can also help in this situation.

**If you had followed all of these instructions your tattoo will heal correctly. Your tattoo artist will not be held liable for any negligence of the aftercare on your part. If you feel that your tattoo has been infected you should contact and consult with a medical physician immediately!**