

TATTOO AFTERCARE

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW TATTOO!

The following aftercare instructions are based on many years of experience, and are provided to inform our clients on how to properly care for their tattoos during the healing process the moment a proud new tattoo owner walks out of the parlor.

DRY- HEALING YOUR TATTOO

Dry healing follows the same simple logic as with skin abrasions: **keep it dry & leave it alone while its healing**. Dry Healing results in a faster period of healing, and keeps the scabbing thin and superficial. It also results in less scarring, and a better looking tattoo many years later.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

The first 24 hours after having your tattoo done, you are more prone to infection. **Please follow these instructions carefully:**

1. Leave your bandage on for **4-6 hours** if applicable.
2. Before removing your bandage, thoroughly wash your hands with hot soapy water. Slowly remove the bandage and gently wash your tattoo with your fingertips. (**DO NOT** bandage your tattoo again.)
3. Gently wash your tattoo with a anti-microbial soap (without any added irritants), until all residues from the ink, plasma and ointment are gone.
4. With a damp paper towel, carefully pat or dab the tattoo until dry. (Towels and face cloths are **not** recommended as they contain bacteria or small fibers that may cling to the tattoo.)
5. Let the tattoo air dry for a few minutes; **DO NOT** blow on your tattoo. Continue to keep the area dry & clean with an anti-microbial soap once in the morning & once at night.
6. ONLY wear **loose fitting clothing** to cover your tattoo during the healing process as fabrics can irritate the skin and cause more discomfort.

WHAT DOES A HEALTHY HEALING TATTOO LOOK LIKE?

A healthy healing tattoo looks sore and a bit red (this is normal). Please understand that your new tattoo is a wound. In order for a tattoo to be permanent, the artist had to get through three layers of skin. This is the same as a series of small scratches in the skin. Expect the healing process of a tattoo to be similar to the healing process of any kind of skin abrasion.

TATTOO HEALING TIMELINE

WEEK 1

During the first few days you may experience sunburn-like sensations in your newly-tattooed area. You may also experience some minor swelling and discomfort, as well as dryness and tightness. Over-the-counter pain relievers can help to alleviate some of this discomfort. **If it is still red after a few days**, apply a thin layer of ointment.

WEEK 2

Your new tattoo will begin to peel and flake by the end of week 1. **Do NOT** scratch your new tattoo or pick any scabs! Instead, you may gently pat or slap your tattoo, or scratch around the outside to alleviate itching. You can also place ice **around** the tattoo. **Do NOT** put ice **ON** your tattoo.

WEEK 3

By now, most of the scabbing on your new tattoo will be gone. You can now continue to put any good, non-scented/fragrance free lotion on your tattoo. The area may still be sensitive as your skin continues to heal completely.

THE DOS AND DON'TS OF TATTOO AFTERCARE

DOs

- DO** keep your tattoo dry and clean.
- DO** use quality tattoo aftercare products.
- DO** keep healing tattoo covered from sunlight.
- DO** wash and change bedding and clothing.
- DO** take a shower for daily hygiene.
- DO** use high SPF sun block on a healed tattoo.

DON'Ts

- DON'T** scratch or pick at your new tattoo
- DON'T** put ice directly on your tattoo
- DON'T** apply Vaseline to your new tattoo
- DON'T** apply alcohol to your new tattoo
- DON'T** swim or bathe, for at least 2 weeks.
- DON'T** get your new tattoo sun burnt

If any fabric, such as clothing or bed sheets, is stuck to your tattoo **DO NOT** try to pull it off. **DO** go into the shower with whatever is stuck to you and gently shower the whole area to loosen the fabric and gently remove it from the tattoo.

HEALING A TATTOO PROPERLY

It is critical to carefully follow the aftercare instructions provided for your new tattoo. Properly caring for your tattoo is key to healing successfully and will prolong the visual appearance of your tattoo. Care must be taken to keep the area as clean, and germ-free, as possible. Ensure that your clothes, *and sheets*, are also clean.

Our shop has done everything we can to ensure that your tattoo is as sterile as possible when leaving our shop. Please follow the advice of your artist and this aftercare sheet, we have done our best to give you the tools you'll need to heal your tattoo properly and safely up to this point, now that responsibility falls to you.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING LABYRINTH TATTOOS! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ON ANY STEP OF YOUR HEALING PROCESS, PLEASE CALL US (NOT YOUR FRIENDS) 250-729-3909