

St. John's **INK**

Professional Tattoo Artist

TATTOO AFTERCARE

Now, you have your fresh new tattoo, and you want to take good care of it! From this point on, your artist is not responsible for any infection or problems you may have with your tattoo if you don't take proper care of it. It's very important that you follow these guidelines. A really beautiful tattoo can turn into a disaster if the proper aftercare is not taken.

LEAVE THAT BANDAGE ALONE!

Your artist took the care to cover up your new tattoo for a very good reason – to keep air-borne bacteria from invading your wound. Yes, as pretty as your new tattoo is, it is still a wound. Open flesh is a breeding ground for bacteria and infection.

Leave the bandage on for 2-3 hours. Excitement of having a new tattoo will make you want to remove the bandage so you can show it off, but doing so can cause damage to your new art.

WASH and TREAT

After you remove the bandage, you will want to wash your tattoo. Use lukewarm water and antibacterial soap to gently wash away any Vaseline and dried blood. **DO NOT** use a washcloth or anything abrasive ... your fingertips are your best tools

Then pat (do not rub) the area firmly with a **CLEAN** towel or paper towel to get it completely dry. Allow 2 days for your tattoo to form a scab texture before applying the lotion recommended by your artist.

DO NOT!!! Use Polysporin or Neosporin. This is a great product for cuts and scrapes, but not for tattoos. Some can have an allergic reaction, which causes little red bumps. When the bumps go away, so does the ink ... and you end up with a polka-dotted tattoo.

Continue this procedure at least twice a day until tattoo is completely healed.

SCABBING and PEELING

After a few days, you will notice some peeling and possibly some scabbing ... this is normal.

You will also start to itch, just like a sunburn when it begins to heal. The advice here is, don't pick, and don't scratch!!! If the skin itches, slap it. If it is peeling, put lotion on it. And if it is scabbing, just leave it alone. Your tattoo is almost healed, and now is not the time to ruin it!

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SUN PROTECTION

After your tattoo is healed, from now on, you will always want to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. These can fade and damage the brilliant tattoo very fast. Before spending a lot of time in excessive heat, protect your tattoo with a minimum 30SPF sun block. This will keep your tattoo vibrant for many years, and it will continue to be a great source of pride.

- DO NOT rebandage your tattoo
- DO NOT use Vaseline or Petroleum Jelly
- DO NOT use alcohol or peroxide
- DO NOT pick or scratch your tattoo
- DO NOT soak tattoo in tub or shower
- Please stay out of pools, hot tubs, oceans for 2 weeks
- Keep tattoo out of direct sunlight and/or tanning beds

We are professionals, and we can tell if you treated your tattoo properly.