

# HOUSE OF HORRORS TATTOO COMPANY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE WITHOUT ATTITUDE



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The following is in consideration of receiving a Tattoo at House Of Horrors Tattoo Company or its affiliates.

## TATTOO AFTERCARE

**PLEASE READ & BE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR TATTOO! IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANYTHING ASK A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM!**

**For recommendations on which are the best products to use on your new tattoo please speak to a member of our team**

After 2 hours remove the dressing & wash the tattoo using warm water & gently pat dry. You may use a mild soap or antibacterial wash to clean the site better, however if irritation occurs discontinue use immediately. For best results and to minimise chances of complications please follow the instructions laid out below. Your artist will advise you on which of the below methods should be used for your tattoo.

### Dry Healing Method

The idea of dry healing is to allow the body to produce a natural thin scab or tougher layer of skin to protect the tattoo until it is healed enough that this is no longer necessary. The skin/scab will begin to flake or peel off on its own when it is ready, over the coming weeks, depending on how quick you heal. It is important that you do not pick these scabs or peel away flaking skin as this cannot only delay healing times but can cause scarring, and may impact the final result of your tattoo.

We recommend not applying any cream(s) for the first 12 to 16hrs as this helps promote the formation of the body's natural layer of protection. It is beneficial to keep your tattoo uncovered as much as possible especially during the first 7 days to prevent premature breaking down of this layer and thus increasing the risk of complications. You can aid this by wearing loose fitting clothes, leaving bed covers off the area and by trying to prevent it from touching other areas of your body.

Wash the tattoo as part of your daily hygiene routine i.e, morning shower, after the gym etc & allow it to dry out fully before applying cream(s), ointment(s) or other tattoo aftercare products. Please be aware that these products are not designed to heal the tattoo for you, rather they are intended to aid the healing process by

relieving tightness, excessive dryness, and itching. Using these products in moderation and when needed can also speed up your recovery time, make the process more comfortable and can contribute to seeing better results.

### Wet Healing Method

The wet healing method causes the skin to stay moist resulting in minimal scabbing and is usually recommended for large tattoos or tattoos which have a lot of black. As with any type of healing this also carries risks of infection if you do not adhere to the appropriate hygiene standards.

Before going to bed wash your tattoo again as previously instructed and apply a thin layer of cream/ointment. Wrap the site in clean clingfilm, taking care not to suffocate the tattoo by covering too tightly.

In the morning, remove the cling film and wash away all the residue left behind. Leave to air until the tattoo feels dry to the touch.

Repeat the process of wrapping and unwrapping until the tattoo feels almost healed (every 6-8 hrs for no longer than 5 days). Be sure to always clean the tattoo, allow it to dry between re-wraps, apply cream/ointment and use clean clingfilm.

Allow the area to breathe for at least 2 hours per day.

### Further information

**Fading** - It is not uncommon for your tattoo to fade or look 'dropped out' during the healing process, especially under flaking or scabbed skin, This is completely normal and you should keep following the aftercare instructions as directed. Once the tattoo is fully healed any lost vibrancy should return, subject to you taking the appropriate care.

**Swelling/Tenderness/Redness** - It is extremely common for the area to feel warm, tender, appear red and even swollen, although these symptoms often begin to subside after 4 or 5 days some may persist longer and can even worsen throughout this time. This is just your body's natural response and is usually due to the tightening of the skin as it is stretched by the swelling and pulled by the skin trying to heal.

To reduce the uncomfortableness of these symptoms it is essential you remove all jewelry from the area or entire limb, wear loose fitted clothing and elevate the area as much as possible in order to promote good blood circulation. The amount of swelling is dependent on the area of skin that has been tattooed, the size of the tattoo, the amount of work involved and ofcourse how your body responds to the procedure. Ibuprofen can be taken as per packet instructions to help reduce the swelling, tenderness and discomfort and you may find applying a cold compress offers some much appreciated relief.


**Healing Time** - In normal circumstances a fully healed tattoo can take anywhere between 4 weeks & 4 months depending on your body's response to the tattoo and how well you take care of it. Just because a tattoo may look healed on the surface, it is recommended you continue using our **Long Term Aftercare** advice after the surface healing is complete, remember the skin underneath needs time to heal too. An unfortunate by-product of creating a tattoo is the trauma caused to the skin and it has been known for the healing process of a tattoo to be more painful and more uncomfortable than the procedure itself.

**Long Term Aftercare** - As tattoos age they can appear faded or not as vibrant as when you first had them done, this is because tattoos are living art and for their longevity you must treat them as such. In our experience we have seen tattoos only 24 months old look 10/15 years due to neglect, so it is important that you continue the following advice for as long as you want your tattoos to look good!

Avoid direct sun on the new tattoo as much as possible for the first 6 months especially, and use suncream religiously throughout this period and for evermore. The sun is probably the single most damaging thing to tattoos and if you want them looking good for a long time, remember they last forever, then it is imperative that you use high strength sun creams on all your tattoos.

Keeping the tattoo well moisturised avoids dry and cracked skin which can become thicker and tougher and make your tattoo less visible. We recommend using a moisturiser with added spf as an added bonus. Avoid sunbeds and absolutely no self tanning lotions especially for the first 4 months and finally try not to damage the skin on the tattoo site, this can permanently affect your tattoo.

It is your responsibility to look after your tattoo. The aftercare instructions provided are guidelines only and although we do try to give you as much information as possible and are here to help you, you need to take it from here as the outcome of the tattoo is now down to you!



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