

Pre-Treatment Tattoo removal

Precautions to take <u>before</u> your laser treatment:

- No sun exposure, tanning beds and sunless tanning cream for 4 weeks prior to treatment. Sun exposure decreases the effectiveness of the laser treatment and can increase the chance of post-treatment complications such as pigment changes.
- Use a broad spectrum UVA/UVB sunscreen with an SPF 50 on the tattoo daily and reapply to the treated area every 2 hours when exposed to the sun throughout your removal process.
- Physical blocks such as clothing, athletic tape or sleeves are recommended to be used 2 weeks prior to treatment to lessen any unwanted side effects such as pigment changes.
- Avoid taking any blood thinners before your treatment such as Alieve, Ibuprofen, or Aspirin as this may cause pinpoint bleeding underneath the treatment area and may take longer to heal. Alcohol is also considered a blood thinner so avoid beverages containing alcohol prior to appointments.
- Shave the tattoo area the day of treatment if hair is present.
- Have flexible Ice packs on hand for after the treatment. 1 Cup of rubbing alcohol to 2 cups of water in a sealed zip lock bag placed in the freezer the night prior make great flexible ice packs!