

Dragon Tattoos

Dragon tattoos have become increasingly popular in the tattoo industry. They are sought after by both men and women due to their versatility in both size and design. **Dragon tattoos** are regularly placed on the upper arm area; however, large backpieces are not uncommon. Whether crawling up legs or wrapping around arms, **dragon tattoos** can be colorful works of art, detailed monotones or strong tribal graphics, all of which demand attention.

Although there are many types of **dragon tattoos**, those featuring Chinese dragons are the most common. To help identify a dragon's origin, Chinese legend states that the further away from China a dragon traveled the least number of toes it would have. Therefore, Chinese dragons have five toes, Korean dragons have four toes and Japanese dragons have three toes. Regardless of type, **dragon tattoos** featuring a flaming pearl under the dragon's chin is perceived as a symbol of good luck, wealth and prosperity.

Eastern Dragon Tattoos

Eastern **dragon tattoos** are seen as positive, friendly and beautiful. They are worshipped by Chinese people who are thought of as "lung de chuan ren," or descendants of the dragon. These dragons usually have beards and whiskers but rarely have wings. Instead they have "poh shans" that grow from the tops of their heads to pump air and enable flight. They generally have slender bodies that look too long for their four short legs to carry. Most eastern dragons are noted as living in water and are thought to control its many forms: seas, rivers, lakes and rain.

The majority of eastern **dragon tattoos** are red or green in color, but any desired ink color may be used. These dragons, as well as eastern dragon tattoos, are thought of as symbols of good luck. Even the Chinese "Year of the Dragon," (discussed below) observed every twelve years, is connected to the eastern Dragon and thought to bring years of health, wealth and long-living to those born during those years.

Western Dragon Tattoos

Western **dragon tattoos** are seen as villainous. They feature fire-breathing dragons like those in medieval folklore and are thought to terrorize villages and abduct women and children. Western dragons resemble serpents and have powerful, muscular bodies. They have four strong legs, a wedged shaped head and pointed teeth. Their large wings give them the ability to fly to high altitudes; therefore, they are regularly drawn in mountainous landscapes. Western dragons were popular in the Middle Ages as knights brave enough to fight and kill these fierce creatures would gain the dragon's protected treasures.