

Ink Haus

CREATIVE STUDIOS

TATTOO AFTERCARE PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your skin art has been hygienically applied with sterile equipment. To preserve a fresh unfaded result, it is essential to avoid infection during the healing period. Always wash your hands before applying cream or touching the new tattoo. Your new tattoo will take anywhere from 5 days to 3 weeks to heal. The healing time is related to the amount of physical damage to the skin and moisture in the area.

WASH

After your skin art has been applied your artist will cover with a dressing to protect the artwork until you get home. It is at this point that the initiation of scab formation occurs. Under the dressing, the weeping tattoo allows blood platelets to begin collecting on the surface of the skin. To prevent further formation of a scab it is necessary to remove the blood platelets. It is recommended to remove the dressing and wash the fresh tattoo after minimum 1 hour preferred, not exceeding 4 hours. Wash gently in warm running water using non-scented liquid anti-bacterial soap. DO NOT use bar soap as it can contaminate and dry the fresh tattoo. After washing rinse thoroughly. DO NOT USE a wash cloth or sponge. Pat dry and let it air out. DO NOT RUB OR SCRATCH. For the first 2 days, all you need to do is wash your tattoo morning and night. Wash once or twice a day for 7-10 days or until the tattooed skin heals. Depending on the extent and location of the work, a fresh tattoo can seep out fluids for up to 12 hours. Placing a clean towel on your bed sheet is a way to prevent stains without re-bandaging.

CREAM

For the first 2 days we don't recommend applying creams. Your tattoo will heal itself naturally on its own, so creams or ointments are only necessary to prevent dryness and cracking. On day 3 the skin will start to feel a little dry and tight, which is good. You can apply a thin layer of cream and rub in gently. DO NOT leave a thick film on the surface. Bepanthen, Protat or Dr. Pickles are recommended. Continue to use 1-2 times daily from day 3 onwards as necessary, using as little cream as possible. DO NOT use Paw Paw, Savlon, petroleum jelly, alcohol or other creams and lotions without asking your artist. Always wash your hands before applying cream or touching the tattoo. Wear clean clothes. Avoid close/tight fitting clothes as they may absorb cream and dry/stick to the freshly tattooed skin. If you suffer from any allergies, seek advice from your GP and advise your body artist. Discontinue use of any product should irritation occur.

AVOID

During the healing period

Sunbathing. Chlorine. Soaking in a bath. Taking long showers. Unwashed clothes. Touching with unwashed hands. Scratching. Salt Water. Oral Contact. Swimming. Pets.

SUNSCREEN

Do not expose your tattoo to direct sunlight for 3-4 weeks. After that we advise using sunscreen of SPF 30+ or above to help keep the tattoo from fading. Regular use can aid in the prevention of premature skin ageing, pigment fading and skin cancer. Never apply spray-tan lotion during healing.

EXERCISE

For the first week refrain from the gym or other physical activities. If you must continue, take it easy with activities that can cause excess perspiration, irritation, inflammation and let your tattoo heal. Constant expanding and contracting of the skin can certainly affect the healing of your new tattoo and potentially cause additional scabbing.

RE-BANDAGING

It is not recommended to re-bandage during the healing process, however, if there is a possibility that your fresh tattoo will come into contact with soil, dirt, oil, debris, sand, dust, bacteria, hair, etc., it may be necessary. If you need to re-bandage, re-apply a fresh piece of cling film covering the tattooed area and tape it in place. Do not apply cream beforehand. Then dress as usual over the bandage. Once removed, wash, pat dry and let it air out.

WHAT TO EXPECT

After a few days to a week, depending on the extent of work done, a thin layer of skin will start to peel or flake away from the entire tattoo, much like the peeling you get from sunburn, or some scabs may start to form. Sometimes the skin flakes will have some ink pigments on it and typically a scab will form. Any itching that accompanies this is perfectly normal. Allow the scab formation to come off naturally with the washing procedure. A thin application of cream will generally ease the itching. DO NOT pick it or scratch. Your tattoo will still be very sensitive and you may end up scratching or picking it open which may leave holes in the tattoo. There is also lots of bacteria under your nails which can cause infection if picking or scratching the tattoo.

The next two to three weeks are crucial to the quality and longevity of your finished tattoo. Keep in mind, if you change the aftercare for whatever reason, the tattooist is not obliged to touch up your tattoo free of cost. It is your responsibility to take care of your tattoo once you leave the studio. If you believe your tattoo has become infected, please contact your artist, the tattoo studio and seek medical advice ASAP.

IMPORTANT If you experience any problems with these after-care instructions or mentioned products, please discontinue use and contact the studio. Above all, when it comes to tattoo advice listen to your professional tattoo artist rather than your friends as we are experienced and know what is best for your tattoo/s. Your tattoo has been created under strict hygienic conditions. Now it's your turn to keep it clean and looking great.