

## All you need to know for **Regular Aftercare**

**A** good aftercare routine will ensure that your tattoo heals properly. Being an investment that will last a lifetime, you want to make sure you do your aftercare the best you can. Half of your tattoo's final result depends on your artist's work and the other half depends of the quality of aftercare you do.



So here is a guide you can use to make sure you are doing it correctly

## What to do

1. Clean your tattoo. Remove the bandage after three (3) hours, but no more than twelve (12). DO NOT remove the bandage until you can properly clean the tattoo with mild soap (Antibacterial, neutral soap) and warm water. Rinse it well with cold water, thoroughly cleaning off all of the slimy coating that may have formed over the tattooed area while underneath the bandage. Gently pat it dry with a clean paper towel, then allow it to air-dry for ten (10) minutes.
2. Apply healing ointment to the tattoo. Sparingly, but thoroughly, massage a very small amount into the skin to keep the tattoo slightly moist, but NOT smothered. Use just enough ointment to give the tattoo a slightly satin shine, and blot with a clean paper towel. Your skin will take in all the ointment it needs, so do not leave excessive ointment on the skin. For the next three (3) to seven (7) days, clean and apply ointment to your tattoo every six (6) hours, (about 3-4 times daily), blotting the small amount of excess fluid that may be secreted from the tattoo in between cleaning. Ensure that extra moisture doesn't get trapped under the ointment by blotting and air-drying after every washing. Only apply ointment for as long as it takes for your tattoo to peel or become flakey, usually three (3) to seven (7) days. When the peeling begins, the tattooed skin will flake like a sunburn. AT ALL COSTS avoid picking at the cracked and flaking skin.

3. You are now in the peeling phase. **DO NOT** apply any more ointment. The area will become dry and itchy, sometimes very itchy. Continue your current aftercare routine. If the itching becomes overwhelming, doing your aftercare routine will help.
  
4. **SCABS** are the body's natural way of protecting wounds while they are healing. **HOWEVER**, it is very important to maintain the appropriate aftercare to **PREVENT** scabs from forming as they can prolong and complicate the healing process which can lead to uneven healing and even scarring. The first signs that may lead to scabbing often are moisture bubbles that appear during the first few days of a new tattoo, usually caused by negligent cleaning or the over application of ointment. At the first sign of these, clean the tattoo thoroughly and allow to completely dry. Do not waterlog (soak) the tattoo. Only apply ointment sparingly to the areas of the tattoo that **DO NOT** have bubbles, allowing the bubbles to dry on their own. If scabs do form, once the tattoo is in the full peeling phase, sparingly apply lotion to the entire area making sure to thoroughly massage and not over apply or soak scabs with lotion. Any developed scabs should not be picked at or prematurely removed.