

## **How to care for your tattoo**

Aftercare starts as soon as your tattoo is done.

### **Cover it up**

The artist should apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment to cover the area in a bandage or plastic wrap. This covering protects the tattoo from rubbing onto your clothes and getting irritated.

Keep the dressing on for as long as your artist recommends, which maybe just a few hours. It'll help absorb any fluid or excess ink that leaks from the tattoo.

### **Gently wash the tattoo**

After a few hours, you can remove the covering.

first wash your hands with water and soap.

Then gently wash the tattoo with warm water and fragrance-free soap. Pat your skin dry with a soft cloth.

Apply a small amount of fragrance free and alcohol free moisturiser to the tattoo. You can keep the covering on at this point and let your skin breathe:

### **Wait for it to heal**

While your tattoo heals, you should:

- wear sun protective clothing when ever you go outside.
- Call your tattoo artist if you experience any symptoms of infection or other problems.

### **You shouldn't:**

- cover your tattoo with sunblock until it's fully healed.
- Scratch or pick at the tattoo
- Wear tight clothing over the tattoo
- Go swimming or immerse your body in water (showers are fine)

### **Tattoo aftercare by day**

How quickly you heal depends on the size of your tattoo and how intricate it is. Bigger tattoos will stay red and swollen longer because they cause more trauma to your skin.

#### **Day 1**

You'll come home from the tattoo studio with a bandage or plastic wrap over your tattoo. After a few hours, you can remove it.

You should ask your artist for specifics about how long to wait. Recommendations will vary and may be based on the type and size of your tattoo. Some tattoo artists suggest that you only keep your tattoo covered for 1 or 2 hours.

Once the covering comes off, you'll probably notice fluid oozing from the tattoo. This is blood, plasma(the clear part of blood), and some extra ink. It's normal. Your skin will also be red and sore. It might feel slightly warm to the touch.

With clean hands, wash the tattoo with warm water and a fragrance-free soap. Apply a fragrance-free and alcohol-free moisturizer.

Leave the covering off so the tattoo can heal.

#### **Days 2 to 3**

By now, your tattoo will have a duller, cloudier appearance. This happens as your skin heals.

Scabs will start to form.

Wash your tattoo once or twice a day, and apply a fragrance-free and alcohol-free moisturiser.

When you wash, you might notice some ink running into the sink. This is just excess ink that's come up through your skin.

#### **Days 4 to 6**

The redness should start to fade.