

This material is taken directly from the Tattoo / Body Piercing Rules, 3.3 B for tattooing or 3.4 B for piercing. The procedures you follow should conform to these rules and should be part of your disclosure information.

INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES SPECIFIC TO TATTOOING

1. A spray bottle containing a mixture of soap and water can be used to clean the skin and for lubrication for shaving the area. Spray bottles should not be topped off and should be cleaned daily.
2. Use an antiseptic (for example, 70% isopropyl alcohol) on the skin in the area to be tattooed. Antiseptics should be wiped on in a circular manner using gauze or a swab. To saturate the swab or gauze, use a pump pack or pour antiseptic from its storage container into a disposable cup. The antiseptic must dry on the skin before penetration of the skin can begin. Use water instead of antiseptic around the eye.
3. Lubricating jelly in pump containers should be dispensed onto a clean single-use applicator. If more jelly is needed, a new applicator should be used. Never remove jelly from the pump using fingers or gloves. Alternatively, use single-use packages of jelly. Do not use deodorant sticks to moisten the skin.
4. Inks, dyes, and pigments should be non-toxic and need to be sterilized before use. Inks, dyes, and pigments used should be poured into clean single use plastic caps or disposable cups for each client.
5. Single-use disposable supplies and equipment should be used whenever possible.
6. Sterilized needles and similar instruments temporarily set down during tattooing shall be handled and placed so as not to become contaminated.
7. All substances shall be dispensed from containers in a manner to prevent contamination of the unused portion. Single-use tubes, containers, or applicators shall be discarded immediately following the procedure.
8. The use of styptic pencils, alum blocks, or other solid or liquid styptics to check the flow of blood is prohibited.
9. Stencils should be single-use (hctographic or tissue). Do not use acetate or other reusable stencils.
10. Tattoo needles and razors should be used only once and then discarded.
11. Discard needles and other sharps immediately after their use and in front of the client into an impervious needle disposal box.
12. Check gloves periodically for pinhole tears during the procedure.
13. Do not allow tip of pigment bottle to come into direct contact with previously poured pigment in tray or other objects that might contaminate the supply bottle.
14. When rinsing tubes for color change, do not blow excess water out of the tube. Use a tissue to pat it dry.
15. After the tattoo is applied, blot excess blood and body fluid and apply a thick layer of ointment or antibacterial cream to the tattooed area.
16. Apply a nonstick sterile gauze bandage or dressing to the area held in place with skin tape. Do not use plastic wrap. A thin layer of sterile petroleum jelly or antibiotic cream may be applied before covering with the dressing.