

HER

AFTERCARE

WEEK 1 UNWRAPPING, CLEANSING, AND PROTECTING YOUR TATTOO

- **Immediate Aftercare:** Your tattoo will be wrapped by your artist. Keep this wrap on as directed (minimum of 24 hours). It helps reduce the risk of infection and minimise bleeding.
- **Removing the Wrap:** Carefully remove the wrap, preferably in a clean bathroom. Wet the area if it sticks, as this can ease removal.
- **Cleaning Process:** Wash your tattoo with lukewarm water and a fragrance-free, antibacterial soap, avoiding any scrubbing. Pat dry with a clean paper towel, never a towel.
- **Moisturising Lightly:** Apply a thin layer of fragrance-free aftercare balm (e.g., Butterlux) as directed by your artist to avoid trapping moisture.
- **Avoid Sun & Water Exposure:** Direct sunlight, pools, hot tubs, and natural water bodies can delay healing and cause infection. Wear loose, clean clothing over the tattoo to keep it safe.

WEEK 2 MANAGING SCABS, ITCHINESS, AND SWELLING

- **Healing Signs:** Redness and swelling should subside, but light scabs and itchiness are normal. Avoid scratching or picking scabs as this can lead to scarring.
- **Continued Cleaning & Moisturising:** Clean twice daily, always with a gentle pat-dry. Use a small amount of moisturiser, keeping it light to prevent clogging.
- **Handling Itchiness:** Tap around the area to relieve itching rather than scratching. Over-moisturising can worsen itchiness, so be sparing.
- **Exercise & Movement:** Avoid strenuous activities that cause sweating, friction, or stretching of the tattooed area, as this can disrupt healing.

WEEK 3 FLAKING AND PEELING STAGE

- **Peeling Begins:** Expect flaking and slight peeling as your tattoo continues to heal. Let all peeling skin fall off naturally; pulling it can damage the design.
- **Cleaning Routine:** Continue washing and moisturising twice daily. Light scabs or patches are normal, but refrain from using any exfoliating products.
- **Avoiding Sun Exposure:** Your tattoo may be fragile; keep it out of sunlight as much as possible. Sun can cause itching, irritation, and delay healing.
- **Be Gentle:** Avoid any tight or restrictive clothing over your tattoo as this can disrupt the natural peeling process.

WEEK 4 SETTLING DOWN - THE FINAL STAGE OF HEALING

- **Tattoo Appearance:** Your tattoo should be mostly healed, with any scabs and peeling finished. Some areas may look slightly shiny or raised – this will soon fade.
- **Protection & Consistency:** Keep up your cleaning and moisturising routine, especially if your tattoo feels dry.
- **Trouble Spots:** If small bumps or spots persist, cleanse gently and avoid scratching.
- **No Retouching Yet:** Although some areas may look faded, wait for a full month before considering any touch-ups – tattoos can take a while to settle.

WEEK 5 FULLY HEALED, BUT KEEP IT SAFE!

- **Cared-for Ink:** Your tattoo should look vibrant and settled, without any signs of peeling, itching, or sensitivity.
- **Long-Term Care:** Continue to moisturise daily, especially in dry or sunny climates, and always apply sunscreen before sun exposure.
- **Prolonging Quality:** Hydrated skin preserves ink colours; keep it moisturised for life! Avoid harsh scrubs or exfoliants on the tattooed area.

TATTOO TROUBLESHOOTING WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

- **Unexpected Redness or Swelling After Healing:** Occasionally, healed tattoos may raise or redden due to sun exposure, heavy sweating, or contact with saltwater or chlorine. This should subside in a few hours to days. If this happens, resume gentle aftercare steps until the skin calms.
- **Persistent Irritation:** If redness, swelling, or itching persists beyond a few days, it's wise to contact your artist or a dermatologist.
- **Scarring or Fading Concerns:** If the tattoo appears raised or dull, check with your artist. They may recommend a touch-up after your skin has fully healed.

TRADITIONAL AFTERCARE METHOD

- A few hours after you get home remove any cling film applied by your tattoo artist. Gently wash the tattooed area with warm soapy water and rinse well. Let the skin dry or pat dry gently. It's important to use a soap that's safe to use on your broken skin.
- Ensure that your skin is dry, gently massage your chosen aftercare moisturiser into the skin, we recommend Butterlux balms. Apply a thin even layer onto the new tattoo. Don't go over the top! Putting too much moisturiser on can suffocate the skin and prolong the healing process.
- Repeat! You need to repeat this process 2-3 times a day for the first 2-3 weeks or so. It's important to always wash the tattoo before applying new moisturiser! This will ensure you don't trap any bacteria onto your lovely smooth skin.
- You'll eventually find yourself in the peeling stage. Don't worry, your tattoo isn't falling off. Light peeling of the skin is normal., but itchy! Don't pick or scratch! After the peeling has subsided you can apply moisturiser throughout the day and for the foreseeable. This will prolong the vibrancy and longevity of your new artwork!

SECOND SKIN METHOD

- Once your second skin has been in place for 24 hours, you will be ready to take it off. You may find that there is a build up of fluid and plasma - don't worry! This is not going to mean that you are losing any of your tattoo.
- To remove the second skin, start in one corner and gently peel and stretch the second skin back, slowly! If you are struggling then you can pour warm water on the area.
- Once removed wash the tattoo with warm water and antibacterial soap, pat dry the area and leave to air dry for at least 10 mins - do not apply any aftercare balm at this stage.
- Apply a new second skin by peeling off the protective paper back, and apply face down onto the skin. Gently but firmly press onto the skin (ensuring the film is stuck to the skin) then peel back the clear arrowed cover.
- Keep the new second skin on your tattoo for 3-5 days, then remove and wash the area and pat dry. You can then apply your chosen tattoo balms.

AFTERCARE PRODUCTS

We carry a range of aftercare products like Butterlux tattoo balms, antibacterial soaps, and foam washes that can help support your healing process. Speak with your artist to find the best products suited for your tattoo's needs.

NEED MORE HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about your tattoo's healing process or our recommended aftercare products, don't hesitate to reach out! We're here to make sure you love your tattoo and enjoy a smooth healing experience.

Contact Us

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