

DOS AND DON'TS BEFORE GETTING TATTOOED

CHOOSE THE RIGHT STUDIO

- Do your research!
- Look up studios around you to find one that fits your needs – is it conveniently located? Does it fit within your budget? Do they tattoo in the style you are looking for?
- Drop in for a consultation, meet your artist before getting inked.
- You may not have your full tattoo design planned out, and that's perfectly fine – artists love working with a client to create unique designs that tell their story.
- A consultation lets you discuss and finalise your tattoo design. Together, you can come up with a design that truly represents you as opposed to something you simply found online.
- Some artists also require that you pay a deposit in advance when booking your tattoo appointment, so it helps to settle details like price during your initial visit.

TRUST YOUR ARTIST

- You've discussed the design, now trust your artist to do their job.
- Tattoo artists want to give you the best experience just as much as you want your perfect tattoo, so trust them to customise a tattoo design that represents you perfectly.

CHOOSE QUALITY

- A good artist is someone that has worked on perfecting their craft for many years. Their skill means you get a quality tattoo. So, choose an artist because they're good, not because they're cheap.
- And DO NOT haggle! Good art is worth paying for – especially when the canvas is your body!

WHAT EXACTLY IS 'AFTERCARE'?

- Tattoo aftercare usually involves certain standard procedures including cleansing and moisturising and refraining from activities like exercising and swimming.
- Some artists might have a few procedures specific to your tattoo.
- Be sure to check in with your artist and ask for their recommended aftercare steps before you leave the studio!
- Keep in mind, once the tattoo is on your skin, it is your responsibility

WHAT TO EXPECT

New tattoos are raw, open wounds and will hurt a bit, about as much as a mild to moderate skin burn.

- The tattoo area will be sore (like the muscles underneath have just been exercised),
- you will experience redness,
- you might experience some bruising (skin will be raised and bumpy), and
- you might feel a bit run down or tired like you're experiencing a mild fever.

All these symptoms will gradually subside over the first week and will be totally gone after 2-4 weeks. We will provide you with a 4-week aftercare plan.

WHAT IS SECOND SKIN?

Initially designed for hospital use, SecondSkin creates a breathable shield to cover your ink. The adhesive bandage acts as a protective layer for your skin and is applied after your tattoo is complete. This holds in the body's natural healing processes and prevents the tattoo from drying out. In some cases, the bandage can speed up your healing time. Adhesive Bandage – protects your tattoo from bacteria and interaction with fabrics.

- Medical-grade
- Latex Free
- Waterproof
- Breathable
- Hypoallergenic
- CE-marked and FDA-registered

SUMMARY OF TATTOO HEALING STAGES

Tattoo healing takes about 2-4 weeks, after which the deeper layers of the skin will continue to heal for another 6 months. The tattoo healing process can be split into three stages:

Stage One (Days 1-6)

- Redness, swelling, and pain or soreness (as if the muscles underneath have just been exercised), oozing of blood and plasma (the part of blood that hardens to help with healing), and mild scabbing (hardened plasma that forms over an wound).

Stage Two (Days 7-14)

- Scabbing starts to fall off causing dry skin, which leads to itching, flaking, and peeling of the skin. This continues till all dead layers of skin have completely fallen off.

Stage Three (Days 15-30)

- The tattoo might still look dull due to a thin layer of scabbing, but by the end of this stage, it should be fully healed. Continue to care for your tattoo to keep it looking its best. Once completely healed, the tattoo will look sharp and clean.