

AFTERCARE - THE FIRST 24 - 48 HOURS AFTER TREATMENT

1. Keep the treated area clean and dry whilst it's healing, particularly while there is scabbing present. Remove your sterile dressing after the maximum of 1 hour after treatment and wash with clean, warm water. We suggest using savlon for after care. Although it has been stopped for the healing of fresh tattoos, there is evidence of the components withdrawing ink from them. Hence why we suggest using savlon to help with the removal process.
2. Blistering can happen, this will have been discussed with you at the consultation stage. If this does occur, apply a cool compress to take heat from the blister. **DO NOT** pop the blister, it is keeping out bacteria which could potentially cause an infection.
3. **DO NOT** pick at the scabbing or allow the skin to become scrapped, as this could potentially cause infection or scarring. Avoid shaving the treated area whilst it's healing.
4. Feel free to shower a couple of hours after the treatment, but take care to avoid high pressure water hitting the treated area. **Baths, hot tubs, swimming or any forms of soaking the area are not recommended until all the scabbing is completely healed.**
5. The area may swell and bruise. A cold compress will help with this.

HOME CARE - BETWEEN LASER SESSION

1. Use your Savlon at least 3 - 5 times per day whilst scabbing is present. It is important that whenever you touch your laser site, your hands are clean. please wash your hands before applying!
2. Wear a sun black with an **SPF 50+ or even total sun block** over the area during the treatments, and for 3 months following your very last treatment. This protects the skins protective layer and melanin production from being damaged, and causing hypo/hyper pigmentation (light or dark patches).
3. Itching is very common due to the dehydrating effect of the laser treatment. Use the Savlon whilst any scabbing or blistering is present. Once all the scabbing has healed, you can transfer onto moisturiser i.e Bio-oil, E45, Coco butter. This will pack the area with moisture before your next laser session, where it will be dried out again. Please continue to moisturise during the whole time between sessions.
4. If the area looks infected (honey coloured, oozing or a spreading redness) or if you experience unusual discomfort, bleeding or any of complications develop; or simply to ask a question, please contact us immediately.



TATTOO LASER REMOVAL

INFORMATION & AFTERCARE

**ALL CONSULTATIONS AND PATCH
TEST ARE FREE OF CHARGE**

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TATTOO LASER REMOVAL

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

We use a Q-Switched Nd YAG 532nm and 1064nm laser machine

WHY DOES THE INK STAY IN THE SKIN WHEN YOU HAVE A TATTOO?

When you have a tattoo, the particles of the ink are too large for the body to destroy. Instead it encapsulates the particles of the ink with a network of collagen fibres as the skin heals, and there the tattoo remains.

HOW DOES THE YAG LASER WORK TO REMOVE IT?

The laser emits a pulse of light that is preferentially absorbed into certain colours of ink. The light enters the skin at a speed that is too fast to heat the tissues (billionths of a second). Instead, it produces a 'shock wave' effect and breaks up the ink particles into smaller pieces. The body then recognises these particles as something that shouldn't be there and attacks it. The particles are then removed naturally via the body's own elimination system.

CAN YOU TREAT ALL COLOURS?

No. Light is measured in nanometers and there are two wavelengths of light that are emitted from this laser: One is an invisible infrared light (1064nm) and the other is a visible green light (532nm). The infrared wavelength is preferably absorbed into black and dark blue inks; whereas the green light is absorbed by red ink. It is possible to treat some other colours although white, yellow and other bright colours are difficult. This is not a problem if you are looking for a cover-up, as lighter colours cover very easily. If you wish to cover an existing tattoo then the darker colours can be faded or removed, allowing your greater choice of size and colour of the cover-up design you choose.

WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO TREAT COLOURS OTHER THAN RED AND BLACK?

The light will only see the colour ink it is attracted to, as different wavelengths absorb into different things. It is not possible to produce a laser that can see all colours as some wavelengths are too shallow when absorbed to affect the ink. Other wavelengths can absorb into other matter and damage the skin in the process. Another reason is that all ink pigments contain certain levels of heavy metals. Some pigments may have higher concentrations compared to others, and these can react with the laser light and carbonise the skin, turning the ink black. It is very difficult to remove the ink when this happens, so if you have other colours you want removing, the laser technician will perform a patch test to see the possibility before proceeding.

WILL THE TATTOO BE REMOVED IN ONE TREATMENT?

No, the light can only shatter a certain amount of ink in one treatment, so several treatments are needed at 6 weekly intervals to work through the layers. You will notice the tattoo fades more and more with every treatment you have. A professional tattoo can take up to 10 - 20 treatments, although some Indian ink and amateur tattoos can be removed in 6 or less sessions. There are several factors that influence the number of sessions required, they are: how deep the ink is, how easy you heal, how deep the ink is in the skin, and types of ink used. Generally speaking, the longer you have had a tattoo and darker it is; the easier it is to remove.

WILL MY TATTOO DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY?

It is possible, but we cannot guarantee that your tattoo will be removed completely. This is due to the same factors that affect the number of treatments required.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SKIN AFTER TREATMENT?

The immediate after effect of the treatment is that the skin turns temporarily white; this is due to water evaporation and disappears within an hour. The skin also swells and feels like mild sunburn, this usually disappears within 24 hours. There is also the potential that skin will bruise around the laser site. The body continues to remove ink after the treatment and the skin is usually back to normal within 2-3 weeks. Full aftercare instructions will be discussed and given to you by the laser technician at the consultation.

ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Sometimes bleeding and/or blistering can occur. Again, there are varying reasons why this happens but can be due to high concentrations of ink in the skin, like treating a cover-up for example. The laser technician will adjust the treatment to try and prevent this from happening so the skin can heal correctly.

WILL THE LASER SCAR MY SKIN?

The laser itself is not designed to cause scarring. If bleeding or blistering occur, it is very important not to pick any scabs that could occur while healing - this could cause scarring and should be avoided as scar tissue can make further treatments more difficult.

WILL THE LASER SCAR MY SKIN?

Treatment can take anywhere between 5 - 30 minutes, depending on the size of the tattoo. Larger tattoos may need 2 or more sessions.