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TATTOO AFTERCARE

This advice sheet is given as your written reminder of the advised aftercare for your new tattoo.

The tattooing procedure involves breaking the skin's surface so there is always a potential risk for infection to occur afterwards. Your tattoo should be treated as a wound initially and it is important that this advice is followed to minimise the risk of infection.

If you have any problems at all with your tattoo or if you think it may need a touch-up, please call back and see us. Don't be afraid to come back, we want you to be 100% happy with your tattoo.

MINIMISING THE RISK OF INFECTION

- Avoid touching the new tattoo unnecessarily so that exposure to germs is reduced.
- For the same reason, do not pick at or scratch a healing tattoo.
- Always wash and dry your hands before touching a new tattoo.
- Leave the dressing applied by your artist for 2 hours until skin stops bleeding.
- After carefully removing the dressing, gently wash the tattoo with non-perfumed soap and warm water or an antibacterial liquid soap. Using wax based soaps can leave a residue and dry out your skin, this could take longer for your tattoo to heal. After your tattoo has been cleaned gently pat dry with a clean towel or kitchen roll. Allow the tattoo to air-dry for 5 minutes.
- After allowing your tattoo to get some air, you can apply cream. We can recommend creams to use, but do not continue to use them if irritation occurs. If you are unsure about whether your tattoo is irritated by the creams, then please call in to see us. Cream will help to protect your skin and reduce dryness/scabbing.
- Wash the tattoo and apply a small amount of cream. Continue to apply the cream 2-3 times daily for 7 days. If you are unsure about any part of this then please contact the studio.
- Tattoo scabs are usually gone after 9-14 days; they will be replaced with 'silver skin', which will last for about a week. Your tattoo may look dull until the 'new skin' has completely healed. After this your tattoo will appear brighter. If you think your tattoo

may need a touch-up, or if you are unhappy in any way with the finished result, please come back and see us sooner rather than later.

- Your artist may have offered you 'second skin', you should keep this on for 3-4 days. However, in the first 24 hours of application, there may be a build-up of plasma under the second skin. This is completely normal. If so, remove the bandage and reapply a new clean one. Once you remove the second skin bandage, keep your tattoo clean and start using aftercare cream as needed.
- You may experience some redness around the tattoo where second skin was applied to the un-tattooed skin. This is also **completely normal** and may occur with any type of medical adhesive. **If you do develop an adverse reaction on the tattoo, discontinue use immediately.**

GENERAL AFTERCARE

- If possible, shower rather than bathe while the tattoo is healing - this will prevent scabs coming off prematurely. If you can only bathe, then make sure the new tattoo isn't soaked or submerged and always pat the area dry with a clean towel.
- Avoid petroleum-based products (e.g. Vaseline) as they can restrict fresh air getting to your tattoo. This could cause infection.
- Do not pick or rub your tattoo. This will cause the pigment to drop out and will leave the tattoo looking patchy.
- Avoid swimming/sun beds/sunbathing until your tattoo is fully healed as chlorine, unclean water and/or sunlight will interact with tattoo ink pigments, which will cause irritation/inflammation. This increases the risk of infection.
- Try to wear loose clothing to minimise rubbing or irritation to a new tattoo.
- If you have any problems or queries regarding your tattoo, please contact the studio on 0191 384 9110 or call in and see us. Our team will advise if they think you need further treatment and may recommend that you contact a GP.
- **Please note that whilst we can advise, you are solely responsible for the aftercare of your tattoo and for your health.**