

# TATTOO AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS



A lot of tattoo shops and a lot of artists have many different ways to take care of tattoos. We are not concerned with them. We have been using the same method for decades with amazing results and amazing healing times.

- Second Skin (Saniderm) will be applied after the tattoo is completed. This special bandage can be left on the tattoo for up to 2 days. If it starts to peel away from the tattoo, do not press it back down, remove it and wash the tattoo as described in these instructions.
- Wash the tattoo using a mild antibacterial soap (such as Dial or Provon) and warm water. Take care to remove all traces of blood and plasma as this will cause scabbing. **Do not scrub the tattoo with a washcloth during the two week healing period.** Pat it dry with a clean, soft cloth or paper towel and leave it alone for about 10 minutes, basically until the skin begins to feel a little tight and dry. This allows for excess moisture from the swelling under the skin as well as moisture introduced by washing the tattoo to evaporate out. It's very important to let your tattoo "breathe" like this any time you get it wet before it gets into the peeling stage.
- Once dry, apply a very thin coat of ointment to the tattoo. *We highly recommend using triple antibiotic ointment (you will receive a few packs for your initial washing).* Only apply a thin coat, enough to cover the tattoo, and without unnecessary globs on top of the skin.

This is where we need to be very clear. Your tattoo heals from the inside out. It does not need "air" to heal. It is not paint. The better you take care of this stage, the better the healing process will go.

- *You must keep your tattoo moisturized!* When the tattoo is kept moist it doesn't have a chance to form a scab but does form a thin membrane to protect the tattoo while it heals. This layer peels off very similar to a sunburn (**DO NOT peel your tattoo, you will pull ink out!**) and it is perfectly normal to see small flakes of colored skin falling off during this stage of healing.
- You must keep your tattoo clean! However, long showers or baths must be avoided for 2 weeks. Prolonged soaking can and will loosen the soft membrane that has formed to heal your tattoo, which will then result in scabs forming. If the tattoo turns into a soggy mess, you'll watch the ink run down the drain! This also includes swimming, hot tubs, and saunas.
- Please refrain from scratching or picking the tattoo. Scrubbing with a washcloth can be very harsh on a tattoo and will cause your colors to fade. Disrupting the tattoo while it is healing can also cause scar tissue. It is normal for the tattoo to become very itchy during the healing time. **Just remember not to pick or scratch, NO MATTER WHAT!**
- Remember, the sun is BAD for your tattoo! If you want it to heal properly, keep it out of the sun!
- If you will be wearing clothing over top of the tattoo, cover the tattoo with a clear film or bandage to stop friction and irritation of the tattoo.

Following all of these simple steps will ensure that you end up with the best result with minimal complications and your tattoo will stay looking bright and beautiful for many years to come.