

Tattoo After Care – www.tattoosbylori.com – Lori-ann Fletcher

Your artist took the care to cover up your new tattoo for a very good reason - to keep air-born bacteria from invading your wound. Yes, as pretty as your new tattoo is, it is still a wound. Open flesh is a breeding ground for bacteria and infection. Leave the bandage on for a minimum of two hours or overnight. Excitement of having a new tattoo will make you want to remove the bandage so you can show your friends, but your friends will just have to wait until later.

Now, you have your fresh new tattoo, and you want to take good care of it! From this point on, your artist is not responsible for any infection or problems you may have with your tattoo if you don't take proper care of it. It is very important that you follow these guidelines. A really beautiful tattoo can turn into a disaster if the proper aftercare is not taken.

Wash and Treat

After you remove the bandage, you will want to wash your tattoo. Use lukewarm water and mild, soap. recommendations: Dial, or Dove tend to be too harsh - I prefer unscented Ivory. To gently wash away any ointment, blood and/or plasma and to completely clean the area. Do not use a washcloth or anything abrasive. Your hand is your best tool in this case. (If your tattoo feels slimy and slippery, you have probably been oozing plasma. Try to gently remove as much of this as possible - when the plasma dries on the skin surface, it creates scabs.)

Then pat (**do not rub**) the area firmly with a CLEAN towel or paper towel to get it completely dry. Repeat this 3-4 times a day for 3 days. After that, continue to keep it clean, you can use lotion when needed, to keep the skin soft. Whatever lotion you use, it should be dye and fragrance free. A lot of artists recommend Lubriderm, but I have found that Lubriderm stings when I apply it too soon. Instead, I have had great success with **Eucerin or Vaseline Intensive Care lotion**

Bathing, Showering, Hot Tubs, and Swimming

Yes, you can (and should!) shower with a new tattoo. It's OK to get your tattoo wet - just **don't soak it**. Submerging your tattoo in a bath or hot tub can cause serious damage, so you'll want to avoid those for 2-3 weeks, but showering is perfectly fine as long as you don't saturate your tattoo. If you get soap or shampoo on your tattoo, just remove it quickly with water. **Swimming - whether it be in a pool, fresh water or salt water - should be avoided for at least 2-3 weeks.**

Scabbing and Peeling

After a few days, you will notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. Excessive scabbing could indicate a poorly-done tattoo, but a little is sometimes normal and there is no need to panic. they will eventually come off on their own. (**Do not apply lotion to a softened scab - wait for it to dry**) You will also start to itch, just like a sunburn when it begins to heal. The advice here is, **don't pick, and don't scratch!** If the skin itches, gently pat it. If it is peeling, put lotion on it. And if it is scabbing, just leave it alone. Your tattoo is almost healed, and now is not the time to ruin it!

Protection from the sun

After your tattoo is healed, from now on, you will always want to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. These can fade and damage a brilliant tattoo very fast. Before spending a lot of time in excessive heat, protect your tattoo with a minimum 30SPF sunblock. This will keep your tattoo vibrant for many years, and it will continue to be a source of great pride.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the aftercare or how the tattoo is healing. PLEASE CALL ME!!!! 250-881-4689

These instructions are designed to help you heal. But if something seems "not quite right" It's important to deal with it **asap**. Thank you for taking care of your new tattoo. And I am always stoked to see it after the healing is done.

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