

AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

Please consider that everyone heals differently, and each tattoo should be given the appropriate attention to aftercare every time. It should not be assumed that all heals will be the same even if you have previously been tattooed! The following aftercare is a general guide for the average heal. However, when necessary, you may have additional steps which will be addressed during your session.

- Clean your tattoo. Remove the bandage after 3 hours, but no more than 6. DO NOT remove the bandage until you can properly clean the tattoo with mild soap and warm water. Rinse it well with cold water, thoroughly cleaning off all of the slimy coating that may have formed over the tattooed area while underneath the bandage. Gently pat it dry with a clean paper towel, then allow it to air-dry for

10 minutes.

- Apply healing ointment to the tattoo. I highly recommend petroleum-free Bomb Butter Aftercare, which is supplied at the studio. Sparingly, but thoroughly, massage a very small amount into the skin to keep the tattoo slightly moist, but NOT smothered. Use just enough product to give the tattoo a slightly satin shine, and blot with a clean paper towel. Your skin will take in all the ointment it needs, so do not leave excessive ointment on the skin. For the next 3 to 7 days, clean and apply ointment to your tattoo every 6 hours, (about 3-4 times daily), blotting the small amount of excess fluid that may be secreted from the tattoo in between cleaning. Only apply ointment for as long as it takes for your tattoo to peel or become flaky, usually 3 to 7 days. When the peeling begins, the tattooed skin will flake like a sunburn. **AT ALL COSTS** avoid picking at the cracked and flaking skin or else you will pull out color.
- If you are using Bomb Butter Aftercare, you will not need to use any other products. It replaces the need for lotion after the flaking has begun. Continue using it as suggested. If not, then follow the next directions.
- You are now in the peeling phase. **DO NOT** apply any more ointment. The area will become dry and itchy, sometimes very itchy. A good quality, fragrance-free lotion (Lubriderm for Sensitive Skin) can now be used 3 to 4 times daily **INSTEAD** of the ointment. Repeat each

day until the skin returns to its normal texture.

- If you get any pimples in the area tattooed during this phase, you need to decrease lotion application times or switch down to a lighter or different lotion.
- Scabs are the body's natural way of protecting wounds while they are healing. HOWEVER, it is very important to maintain the appropriate aftercare to PREVENT scabs from forming; they can prolong and complicate the healing process which can lead to uneven healing and even scarring.
- The first signs that may lead to scabbing often are moisture bubbles that appear during the first few days of a new tattoo, usually caused by negligent cleaning or the over application of ointment. At the first signs of these, clean the tattoo thoroughly and allow to completely dry. Do not waterlog (soak) the tattoo. Only apply ointment sparingly to the areas of the tattoo that do not have bubbles, allowing the bubbles to dry on their own.
- If scabs do form, once the tattoo is in the full peeling phase, sparingly apply lotion to the entire area making sure to thoroughly massage and not over apply or soak scabs with lotion. Any developed scabs should not be picked at or prematurely removed. Do not scrub or force any scabs off while showering or washing.

- Continue moisturizing the tattoo, daily, forever! Just like drinking water, moisturizing will keep the skin healthy and hydrated, which will keep the tattoo looking good.
- Avoid direct sunlight FOREVER, if you don't want your tattoo to fade over time. Wear sunblock at all times. Tattoos can and will be ruined within one summer in direct sunlight for prolonged periods of time.