

Caring for your Skin



▼ Tattoo Aftercare

Once you leave the Tattoo Studio the care of your tattooed skin becomes and is your responsibility.

The quality of your finished tattoo will be affected by the aftercare you have used and your care of the skin during the healing process.

The skin following a tattoo has in effect been damaged leaving you with an abrasion. On the skin the bacteria staphylococci live quite harmlessly and are a normal part of life. However once the skin is broken there is the potential for the skin to be susceptible to these bacteria. It is normal for your skin to heal without any problems if you follow some basic aftercare principles.

1. Wash your hands prior to touching or washing your skin, and before applying any aftercare product.

2. Choose a good quality aftercare product.

3. Do not share your product with anyone only be responsible for your own hygiene.

Your artist will have given you aftercare instructions on how to wash and care for your skin. This can vary from studio to studio. Artists will have tried many methods over the years and will tell their customers the methods that work well for them. As the end user of their advice you have to decide how to follow and interpret their advice.

The position of the tattoo on your body and the experience of the Tattoo Artist will also affect the healing process.

▼ Choosing a product

There are a variety of products available and recommended. Some are specifically designed for the skin following tattooing and other products used by artists in the absence of suitable products.

A good aftercare product should lightly coat the skin and contain ingredients that aid the skin healing process. Products that contain petroleum should be avoided as this ingredient prevents the skin from breathing thereby slowing down the healing process. It may also try to draw moisture from the inside out in an attempt to heal the skin and may be responsible for drawing ink out. A light application of a good aftercare should cover the skin and be absorbed slowly by the skin, which will help prevent scabbing. Over application of any aftercare product can cause problems as it prevents the skin from breathing and can make the skin soggy.

Your aftercare product should hold information on the ingredients it contains. It is required by law to use *INCA name of an ingredient which is in Latin.

Most companies have a website where you will find a list of ingredients. You may also find customer comments on their site, which can help you decide on which product to use.

Do not accept or purchase a product that has not been labelled correctly. These products will have been taken from their primary container and could be contaminated during transfer. You have the right to use a product that has been filled and packaged correctly.

*The international system for identifying ingredients in cosmetics

▼ Caring for the Skin

Your artist may have applied a first application of a tattoo aftercare product. (This will optimise the healing process). You will also have a dressing on. Some artists use cling film.

Artists using cling film will give you instructions on how often it should be changed and how long it should stay on for. This will vary from studio to studio.

Some artists use Melolin, (shiny side down ☺); others use gauze and some paper towelling. These dressings are removed, normally between 2-6 hours; your artist will advise. Wash the area with light soapy water, non-perfumed soap preferably. Pat the skin dry, DO NOT RUB, and allow to fully dry. Apply a small amount, a film, of your aftercare product over the tattooed area and gently massage in. Follow the product instructions for application. Generally this is 2-4 times a day. Do not re-cover your skin, unless as part of the aftercare instructions given by your artist.

Depending on which product you have chosen, your own general health, the size and position of your tattoo your skin can heal between 3-7 days. There should be minimal scabbing, if any, and the product should not draw out the ink. If you do have any scabbing don't pick at them, as this may draw ink out and leave gaps in your ink work, face without a nose ☹, and increase the chance of infection, (remember bugs live on the skin).

The skin may start to lightly peel. Don't pick this off as it will come away itself within a few days. Avoid using sun beds and going swimming for a few weeks.

Once the skin has healed you can continue to use some aftercare products as a moisturiser to keep your skin looking and feeling fresh. Use a sun factor cream when going out into direct sunlight, as tattoos don't like UV

light, which can fade the colours. If you have had any scabbing and picked any and lost some ink this can be sorted out the next time you visit your tattoo artist. Artists may have a minimal charge for repair work.

▼ Had a Reaction?

Had a reaction to your aftercare product – don't panic. You may be sensitive to one of the ingredients. Although not a major problem it does happen. The skin can react in a few ways from redness to irritable itchy skin to white pimple like spots. The irritation will be localised to the area. If this occurs stop using your aftercare product. Lightly wash off the remaining product from your skin. Your skin is now further irritated and needs an opportunity for recovery so it would be best not to apply any further products. A reaction to a product should settle down within 24-72 hours.

Having a reaction can be upsetting and some people might feel their tattoo will be ruined. This is generally not the case. The skin will heal similar to that of skin that has not used any aftercare product. This would normally be for a person in good health 10-14 days. This skin is more liable to scabbing and becoming itchy. A very light application of olive oil can help minimise these symptoms.

If you were still experiencing problems after a few days it would be doubtful that the aftercare product would be responsible and it may be that you have had a reaction to the ink pigments. This is possible even if you have been previously tattooed without any problems. (Should this occur contact the studio for advice from the artist. It may also mean a visit to your GP if the problem persists).

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▼ Infections

Although not common if your skin becomes infected, whether due to picking scabs or for no apparent reason you may need to visit your GP. Lightly wash the area and recover with a dressing to absorb any excess fluid. If the area starts to settle down within 24 hours your bodies own defence mechanism may be dealing with the infection. If there were no improvement a visit to your Doctor would be advisable.

▼ Aftercare products and Inks

Aftercare products and inks are manufactured under strict guidelines and are safe to use. The most common reason people react to some of the ingredients is the increased sensitivity in their own body.

▼ On a Lighter Note

The majority of people whether it is their first tattoo or one of many experience no problems during the healing process and using a good quality aftercare product find that their skin heals easily with very little or no symptoms of discomfort. The cells of your skin were damaged during the tattooing process and the recovery of these cells will be aided by your choice of aftercare and the ingredients that aftercare contains.

We recommend that you use THC Tattoo Aftercare. This 100 % natural ointment contains ingredients that were specially chosen to deal with the skins changing requirements during the healing process. It eases the itch and soothes the damaged skin. Colours remain vibrant. It is approved under the Humane Cosmetics Standard.

▼ Long Term Care

THC Tattoo Aftercare continues to care for your skin when the healing is complete. Its natural ingredients make it suitable for the long term care of your tattooed skin. It nourishes and moisturises the skin. It can be used on older ink work to replenish and vitalise the skin. One product for the life of your Tattoo.

*Look after your skin and the ink will
take care of itself.*

Enjoy your new tattoo. Happy inkin' 😊

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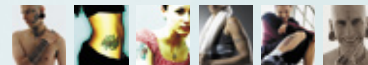


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