

SO YOU GOT A NEW TATTOO, NOW WHAT?

SKINFINITY TATTOO AFTERCARE

Leave covering on for ONLY 1 hour, as you DO NOT want oozing to dry for several hours under the wrap. You may wash your tattoo with clean hands, antibacterial soap, and warm water. At this point, lightly pat or air dry and with clean hands apply REDEMPTION AFTERLIFE ointment. Redemption is an organic lubricant that helps reduce swelling, redness, and helps you heal quicker. This is the ointment we use while tattooing. We stand behind it 100%. If you choose not to use Redemption, you may use Aquaphor or A&D ointment. DO NOT use Vaseline, petroleum jelly, alcohol, peroxide, aloe vera, bacitracin, or neosporin. Continue to apply the ointment 2-4 times a day. Healing time is generally 4-10 days.

It is best to wear some sort of cotton clothing to sleep in so that you don't end up stuck to the sheet. It won't be funny that you left a print of your tattoo on the sheet when you realize it ripped away a healed layer of skin. The cotton clothing WILL stick a little to your tattoo the first couple of nights. That is okay! Just get in the shower and get it wet enough to release itself from the tattoo. If your pets sleep with you, you MUST change your sheets and keep them out of your bed for at least a week!

After using the ointment for a week, continue to use a moisturizing lotion for 4 weeks. We recommend anything you like as long as it is fragrance free. Anytime your tattoo begins to feel a bit tight or dry, feed it moisture! The more you do so, the quicker the skin will heal. The idea here is to PREVENT SCABBING. A scab will be the pigment pulled up and out onto the surface. Obviously if you want the brightest possible tattoo you want to leave the pigment beneath the surface. The best possible healing will be a couple of peels, like after a bad sunburn.

Remember to wash your hands before applying lotion, if you can't..use hand sanitizer. If you have handled money your hands are filthy. If you pet an animal and then rub in lotion, eeewww, think about where they might have been. Be sensible, remember that it is a wound that needs your help to heal.

No direct sunlight for 2-3 weeks. This is absolutely vital with red ink, it can easily develop a photosensitivity and you DO NOT want to experience the intense itch of this reaction. But with every color of ink, even black, the sun is a major cause of new tattoos looking blurred and the reason old tattoos fade.

No soaking in water, no swimming, hot-tubs, or direct shower water beating on it for 2-3 weeks. Of course you can keep it clean, but if the healing tat soaks up water it will be like going swimming when you were a kid and had a scab. Remember how the waterlogged scab would float away.....there goes your new tattoo! Seriously! No surfing, dudes! NO LAKES! If it does get wet in the shower, gently pat it dry, don't rub at it with a towel. Then, immediately after getting it dried off, remoisturize it.

If you work out, or do contact sports, take a break for at least a week. Gyms have germs!

OVER

IT IS UP TO YOU to protect your investment. By giving your tattoo proper care while healing you insure that you will enjoy it for the rest of your life. It will age as gracefully as you do.

Sometimes, however, something can go wrong with the healing....usually, infections are the result of aftercare neglect. REMEMBER, HEALING YOUR TATTOO IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY! But, should something begin to seem awry, here is my common sense "without seeing it" diagnosis and advice:

*****I AM NOT A DOCTOR AND THESE ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS*****

IF IT GETS REALLY ITCHY: get a HYDROCORTISONE CREAM 1% at the grocery store, like CORTAID, and use that on it instead of the lotion. Give it a day; it should bring down the swelling if what you are getting is a histamine reaction to the foreign material placed in your body. Another way to cut the itching is to get BENADRYL, also a non-prescription item. Recognize that it is a measure of the health of your immune system how it reacts to having the pigment inserted into your body.

If some sort of contaminant or environmental pollutant has gotten into it then you may need to switch to NEOSPORIN CREAM (not ointment) or BACITRACIN CREAM or one of the other triple-antibiotics, all of which should be available at the grocery store in crème form. You don't want a petroleum form, which would smother the healing tattoo in grease. Give these topical products a chance to kill the starting infection. Some people have an allergic reaction to antibiotics, and can go into anaphylactic shock, so use sparingly and only when needed.

If the body part is an extremity, like the ankle, keep it elevated above the level of your heart as much as possible to bring down the swelling. Use common sense and take Advil or Motrin as directed to help with any swelling.

If after two days you don't see significant improvement then go to a doctor and get their advice. If you are around kids or animals you may easily have gotten something that is causing an infection, like staph or strep (that can cause cellulitis), in the open surface area of the tattoo, and a doctor will give you a cycle of antibiotics to fix that.

If you need some reassuring words you could call or email us, but basically we are just going to repeat this advice. Without actually seeing the tattoo in person there is no way we can make an informed comment. It is the responsibility of the tattoo shop to be informative and helpful, and to help you get the best result possible so that you enjoy your tattoo for years to come. You have been tattooed by trained professionals who care about your health. We believe in tattooing as an ancient, splendid, important way to externalize your aesthetics and affirm your identity. But most importantly, it is good for the tattoo industry as a whole, that clients are as informed as possible.

"Be safe and BE ART!"