

ARTISTIC INKLINGS

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AFTERCARE

1. **Leave your bandage on overnight.** It may be slightly uncomfortable or annoying, but you do not want your brand new tattoo sticking to your bed sheets or pajamas. A fresh tattoo will release a yellowish fluid (serum) with a bit of blood called serosanguineous. This is normal! Your body is simply trying to “seal” the wound; however, this is the important part – we keep the bandage on to absorb this fluid so that your body does not create a thick scab over the tattoo and to allow for quicker healing.
2. When you get up in the morning, hop in the shower and allow your bandage to soak in the water for a few minutes. This will help loosen up the medical tape so you can comfortably remove the bandage.
3. Once bandage has been removed, gently wash all remaining ointment and fluid from the tattoo with a mild soap (nothing heavily scented or with exfoliants) and warm water (avoid hot water the first couple times as your tattoo will be sensitive). You may notice there is some ink or colouration to the fluid, but don't worry, this is just a bit of excess ink from the outer layer of your skin and is in no way your tattoo “falling out”.
4. Rinse your tattoo thoroughly and gently pat dry with a clean towel or paper towels. Allow an extra 5-10min for the tattoo to completely air dry.
5. Now that your tattoo is clean and dry you can apply a very small amount of the Ointment provided to you. A small amount will spread a long way so it is recommended that you start with a pea-sized dollop on your finger tip and gently dab the ointment over the tattoo and then spread the ointment to cover the area in a very fine layer. The tattoo should have a slight sheen, but should not look super glossy or goopy. If too much has been applied, simply wipe a bit off with a paper towel; however, for larger tattoos applying more may be needed.
6. It is important to take good care of your tattoo for the first week of healing as this is when there is the greatest potential for the introduction of bacteria. Be sure to wash your tattoo and apply fresh ointment twice daily (generally morning and after dinner) for the first week or until your tattoo has begun to flake and peel like a sunburn (this can start as early as day 4 or 5).
7. At this point, discontinue use of ointment and allow the tattoo to continue to dry and peel until there is no flaky skin left and skin is smooth again. Your skin may become very itchy at this point so be sure you **do not pick or scratch at your tattoo** as you could potentially damage your artwork. It is normal for your skin to be dry at this stage, and so long as the tattoo has finished peeling it is okay to use a bit of moisturizer to alleviate the dryness. Do not over-moisturize as your tattoo is still healing under the surface and needs to “breathe” to do so. Applying a small amount of lotion once every other day for roughly a week should be plenty. Your tattoo should be fully healed within 2-3 weeks (can differ from person to person)
8. During the first week of healing it is important to **AVOID**: direct sunlight, tanning beds, swimming pools, hot tubs, saunas, bathing in a bathtub (showering is completely acceptable), oil products, lotions, peroxide, bodily fluids, tight clothing (may cause irritation and cause scabbing), unclean environments, pet hair, sleeping on your tattoo, picking or scratching at your tattoo, or any advice on aftercare from friends if it differs from these instructions!
9. If at any point you have questions or are concerned about the healing of your tattoo do not hesitate to contact your artist! If you think your tattoo has become infected for whatever reason please see your physician or go to the emergency room. Signs of infection can or may included: Increased pain, swelling, redness, or warmth around the affected area; red streaks extending from the affected area, drainage of pus from the area and fever. (***)Please note that sensitivity, swelling, redness and warmth around the tattoo immediately after the procedure is a completely normal inflammatory response of your body; these symptoms should only be a concern for infection if the issues persist or become worse several days after the tattoo was applied) Bruising may also be common in certain areas that are tattooed.