

James L. Stevenson, Tattoo Artist
TATTOO AFTERCARE

IF YOU DON'T TAKE PROPER CARE OF YOUR TATTOO IT WILL NOT LOOK AS GOOD AND IT MIGHT GET INFECTED!

1. Remove the bandage after 2-3 hours - not before.
2. Wash the tattoo thoroughly with cool to warm soapy water. Use your hand - don't scrub it with anything. Gently remove any surface blood and ointment. Rinse well and pat dry.
3. Rub a small amount of Bacitracin Ointment into the tattoo a minimum of 3 times per day until it starts peeling (3-5 days). A thin layer is enough. Don't let it dry out.
4. After it starts peeling switch to an unscented moisturizer such as Eucerin, Nivea, or Curel. Keep it moist until fully healed (1-2 weeks).

KEEP YOUR FILTHY NASTY HANDS OFF IT! Your hands are the most likely source of infection. Only touch it to wash and apply ointment, and always wash your hands before and after.

MORE THINGS TO KNOW

- Be aware to keep blood and body fluids from contaminating other people or surfaces.
- DO NOT re-bandage - let it breathe.
- DO NOT use harsh soaps. Use a gentle antibacterial soap.
- Some people are allergic to certain ointments. If you get a rash on your tattoo then switch to a different ointment. A&D ointment or plain petroleum jelly are good alternatives - but they don't have an antibiotic like Bacitracin so be sure to keep it clean.
- DO NOT pick or scratch the tattoo while it is healing - this will interfere with the healing process and may damage the tattoo. If it itches, slap it (it works!)
- IF you are taking proper care of your tattoo there should be little to no scabbing. After 3 days to a week the skin around the tattoo will peel and there will be a little "crumbling" of black or colored particles - this normal. If a scab does form, and while it's peeling, do not pick or scratch and continue to care for it properly.
- DO NOT soak the tattoo for one week. (No tubs, saunas, swimming, etc.) Shower or bathe as normal, and wash the tattoo gently by hand.
- DO NOT expose to harsh sunlight for two weeks. Afterward, always use a sunblock to keep your tattoo bright.
- Your tattoo should heal within 2 weeks. CALL ME and consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of infection develop.
- DON'T PANIC! If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to call me during daytime hours (or after hours in an emergency).