

AFTERCARE

WHY AFTERCARE? Any time you open the skin, you leave yourself vulnerable to scarring and infections. That includes tattoos! Caring for your tattoo can prevent these complications and ensure that the tattoo heals properly.

HEALING WITH SANIDERM OR DERMSHIELD

The top layer of your skin (called the epidermis) protects you from minor scrapes and UV Light. Tattoos will pierce this layer, similar to a sunburn or abrasion. When you get a tattoo your skin loses the ability to protect itself from germs, or retain moisture. Because of this epidermis damage, you must do your skin's job in its place.

Saniderm/Dermshield acts as a temporary epidermis - It is transparent and breathable. It allows the skin to breathe, and protects it from outside contaminants, direct contact, and friction with clothes or bedding.

This barrier also allows skin to retain its lymphatic fluids, negating the need to moisturize your tattoo while the barrier is in place, and skipping most of the dreaded scabbing stage of conventional healing without the bandage.

After your tattoo is completed, your artist will cleanse the area, and apply isopropyl alcohol to the perimeter of the tattoo and the tattoo itself. (Yes, you read that correctly. Alcohol on your fresh tattoo.) This is to eliminate any oils your body naturally produces on the surface of the skin and to ensure good adhesion between the bandage and skin. This will be followed by the application of the transparent bandage known as Saniderm/Dermshield.

AFTERCARE AT HOME

The Saniderm/Dermshield should be kept on for a minimum of 3-5 days, and can stay on for the duration of your tattoo healing process.

The day after your initial tattoo appointment, you may notice a small amount of fluid has collected under the Saniderm/Dermshield. This is normal, though if you find the fluid is leaking or excessive, you can choose to remove the Saniderm/Dermshield, cleanse the area, and apply a new Saniderm/Dermshield for the next 3-5 days.

PLACING SANIDERM/DERMSHIELD:

1. With clean hands, remove the white backing of the barrier film after cutting it to the desired size.

2. In one motion, evenly apply the sticky side to clean the skin.

3. Peel back the top plastic side of the barrier, leaving only the barrier itself adhered to the skin.

If you're not comfortable replacing the wrap yourself, or if you need another set of hands to apply it to a hard-to-reach part of the body, come by the shop the following day for a re-wrap. We would be more than happy to help place it properly, and ensure you get the best heal possible.

After the 3-5 days, you may remove the Saniderm/Dermshield and continue your aftercare by applying a light unscented lotion to your tattoo as needed. It is completely normal to have really thin light flaking on the top layer of skin, and maybe even minimal tiny scabbing. Do NOT pick at the flakes or scabs. No matter how itchy the area may be, avoid abrasively scratching the area. Be gentle with your new artwork and fresh skin!

Healing with Ointment

If for any reason you cannot or do not wish to use Saniderm/Dermshield you may choose to heal the traditional way.

1. Remove any plastic wrap/non-adhesive tattoo covering within 3-4 hours of your tattoo. (If you are sleeping directly after, you can choose to keep it on for the duration of your sleep)

2. With clean hands, gently wash your tattoo with a mild unscented soap, gently rinsing with water.

3. Allow it to air dry and apply a small amount of lotion or recommended ointment to the entirety of your tattoo. (Repeat this 2-3 times a day for the first 3 days. Then you may decrease the amount of washing to once a day.)

4. Continue to apply a thin layer of unscented Lotion to your tattoo at least once a day and as needed for the duration of your healing process.

Recommended Lotions: Lubriderm, Eucerin, Aveeno, etc.

TIPS FOR THE FIRST MONTH

Avoid picking and scratching your tattoo!

Avoid direct sunlight

Avoid tight-fitting clothing that creates friction against your fresh tattoo

Avoid submerging your tattoo in any body of water. (hot tubs, baths, ocean, pool, lake, rivers, waterpark, etc)

It normally takes anywhere between 2-4 weeks for a tattoo to be completely healed.

TATTOO AGING

With time all tattoos age, but taking care of your tattoo will keep it in great condition for years down the line! To keep your tattoo in the best condition, we recommend always applying sunscreen when you're going out. Cover your tattoo when in direct sunlight or harsh elements, and continue regularly applying ointment or moisturizer to the location.

WHAT'S NORMAL

For the first few days after getting your tattoo, your skin may be red, itchy, and sore. You may notice excess ink, along with blood and fluid, leaking from your skin. This is normal. As the tattoo heals, there will also be scabbing. By the second or third week, the outer layers of skin should be healed. It may take 3 to 4 months for the lower layers to completely heal.

COMPLICATIONS

ADHESIVE WRAP - If your wrap fills with excess fluids, OR starts to come off, come see us for a free rewrap!

INFECTION - A tattoo that isn't properly cared for can get infected. Infected skin will be red, warm, and painful. It may also leak pus. Please either come see us or a doctor if you suspect an infection.

ALLERGIES - Please let us know beforehand if you have any known allergies. We try our best to use non-allergenic materials. But if you have any allergies to the ink, you may develop a red, itchy skin reaction at the site. The most common allergy is to red ink. Some people are also sensitive to certain soaps and wrappings, and alternate wrappings can be provided.