

❧ Tattoo Aftercare Instructions ❧

After getting a tattoo, be sure to take proper care of the tattoo site in order to promote proper healing, prevent infection, and preserve the final appearance of the tattoo.

- Wash hands thoroughly* before touching a healing tattoo.
- Remove bandage within 2 hours of application to prevent bandage from sticking to skin. Do not re-bandage tattoo.
- Gently wash off excess ointment and fluids from tattoo with clean, bare hand. Pat dry with a clean, single-use paper towel; do not rub with towel. Apply a thin layer of antibiotic ointment such as Bacitracin™ Zinc Oxide ointment, Neosporin™ or Vitamin A&D ointment. After 5 days, substitute a gentle fragrance-free and color-free body lotion.
- Repeat the above washing/ointment procedure at least 3 times a day for 1–2 weeks.
- Consult with a health care provider if any signs of allergic reaction or infection appear.

NOTE:

- **DO NOT pick, rub, scratch, or “help along” the scabbing process.** Some scabbing is normal. Excessive scabbing, however, may indicate a poorly done tattoo. Picking at the scabs or flakes may pull the color out and can increase chances of infection.
- **DO NOT expose tattoo to sun or a tanning bed** until completely healed (At least 4 weeks). Note: After tattoo is healed, use sun block whenever exposed to the sun.
- **DO NOT get the tattoo wet for two weeks** except for gentle washing; no hot baths, hot tubs, or swimming.
- **DO NOT use Hydrogen Peroxide or rubbing alcohol** on your tattoo.
- **DO NOT wear tight clothing or nylons** over your tattoo until healed.

For more information on tattoo and body piercing, visit us on the web at:

www.milwaukee.gov/bodyart

* Correct hand washing procedure:



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