

IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR TATTOO (UNLESS USING PLASTIC WRAP OR ADHESIVE BANDAGE)

- Leave bandage on for 1-2 hours. Wait until you are home to remove the bandage.
- Wash the tattoo with warm-hot water and non-scented antibacterial soap (*Dial, Soft Soap, etc.*) using your hand, not a wash cloth. Pat dry with a clean paper towel.
- For the first 3-4 hours, wash your tattoo every 30 minutes as instructed above.

DAILY AFTERCARE

- Make sure that anything touching your tattoo (hands, clothing, bedding, etc.) is clean.
- Gently wash your tattoo each day with antibacterial soap. Pat dry with clean paper towel.
- Apply a thin layer of white, unscented hand lotion, coconut oil, shea butter, or aftercare product 2 - 3 times a day. Too much is worse than not enough.
- **No soaking or submersion in water for the next 2 weeks.** This includes lakes, oceans, pools, hot tubs, doing dishes in a sink, etc. Showers are fine.
- **No tanning or sun exposure for 3-4 weeks.** After that, always use a quality sunscreen. UV rays speed up the aging/fading process. Color tattoos will be more affected by long term sun exposure.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE HEALING PROCESS

- For the next few days after your tattoo, it is normal for the skin to be swollen, irritated and red. Swelling can be more significant in the limbs, especially lower legs.
- In 3 - 5 days your tattoo will start peeling like a sunburn. Some minor scabbing may also occur. This can continue for the next 2 -3 weeks. Do not pick at your tattoo or “help” it peel. This can damage your tattoo and lead to a longer heal time. You may also experience itching during the healing process but do not scratch.

PLASTIC WRAP AFTERCARE (ONLY IF RECOMMENDED BY YOUR ARTIST)

- While wrapping your tattoo do not apply any lotion or aftercare products.
- After you have removed the initial bandage (1-2 hours after tattoo), wash with antibacterial soap, pat dry with clean paper towel, and let air dry for the next 15 minutes.
- Carefully wrap or cover your tattoo with plastic wrap. It should be neither tight or loose. If wrapping around a limb, use cohesive bandage to wrap above and below the tattoo, otherwise use medical tape.
- Change the wrapping every 4-6 hours. Each time, wash the area, pat dry and allow to breathe for 15 minutes. Repeat for at least 24 hours and up to 3-5 days. After this time period, switch to regular daily aftercare above.
- During the first day or two of wrapping, it is normal for there to be color discharge.

ADHESIVE BANDAGE

If you have any allergies to adhesives, let your artist know! If you experience redness beyond normal irritation or red bumps while using the bandage, discontinue use and switch to normal aftercare.

- The initial bandage can be left on for 12-24 hours. Fluid accumulation under the bandage is normal.
- Remove the bandage by pulling gently from a corner and wash the tattoo with warm-hot water and antibacterial soap using your hand, not a wash cloth. Pat dry with a clean paper towel.
- Apply the second bandage immediately, leaving an inch of bandage around all sides of the tattoo. You may need to trim the bandage to fit the area of the tattoo and overlap multiple bandages.
- The second application can stay on for up to 3-5 days, depending on fluid build up and adhesion.
- A third application may be used if recommended. Switch to the regular daily aftercare above afterwards.

We have a variety of aftercare products such as soaps, lotions, bandages, and more available for purchase!