

Tattoo Aftercare & Advice From the Artists at Prairie Fire Tattoo



Well you did it! You got your first OR fiftieth tattoo! You now have an open wound, a beautiful open wound, but until it heals, an open wound, nonetheless. Now you need to take care of it! This care starts when the bandage comes off and continues until your skin is healed and smooth. With an open wound there is always a chance of an infection so it's very important to be diligent with your aftercare. It is extremely important that you read aftercare product instructions carefully and use them at your own risk since your artist cannot predetermine allergic reactions.

AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Leave the bandage on for a minimum of 2 hours! Avoid removing, peeking, touching or playing with your tattoo prematurely. The bandage is there to reduce the risk of infection.
- Do not keep the bandage on for more than 6 hours. Tattoos need oxygen and they need to breathe. The longer your tattoo is under the bandage, the more moisture builds up and your skin becomes moist

and this is not good for your new tattoo.

- When taking the bandage off, wash your hands first! Be careful with removal. Some medical tapes or second skin can be removed easier with unscented soap and water. Gently wash the tattoo with mild unscented soap (supplied) and warm water. Do not rub/scrub your skin or the area will become irritated.
- Make sure you pat dry with a clean towel and do not reapply the bandage!
- Apply a thin layer of A&D ointment. Make sure to only apply enough to make the skin shiny.
- Reapply the ointment whenever your tattoo looks dry or feels tight and itchy. Make sure your hands are washed and clean the area well without scrubbing. If your tattoo is already shiny, do not reapply ointment. The less you touch your tattoo during the healing process, the better the process and better the outcome of your tattoo will be.
- Too much ointment will block oxygen from the area and create a moist environment which is ideal for bacteria to grow and there is a chance for infection.

- Shower Daily, and wash with mild, unscented soap.
- Change your bedding! Make sure your bedding is fresh and be mindful of the discharge coming from your tattoo. If it gets onto your sheets, chances are they will stain!
- Keep tattoo protected and covered in loose clothing if you have dirty/dusty/oily work clothes or other things on your clothes which can irritate. Do not drown your tattoo in baths, hot tubs, sinks or saunas until healed.
- Do not tan or exercise or the area will become irritated.
- Do not pick or scratch your tattoo, it may cause damage or scabbing to the tattoo
- Do not use polysporin, or lotion on a tattoo, both can have negative effects on the healing process.
- Continue using aftercare for 3 weeks or until your skin is back to normal

WHAT TO EXPECT WHILE YOUR NEW TATTOO HEALS

Most tattoos on your upper body generally heal in approximately 2-3 weeks, while lower level tattoos take about 6 weeks. Everyone is different so the healing process depends on you and your skin, your health, how well you take care of your new tattoo and the amount of trauma that was caused during the tattoo that will directly affect your tattoo heal time. Your tattoo will be looking amazing over the next couple of days because it's fresh, but while it starts to heal it won't look great. You will have peeling and possibly some scabbing. This is what happens while it heals, so don't panic!

DAYS 1-6

Healing starts when the tattooing ends. The first 4-6 days are the most critical to how well your tattoo will heal and how it will look for the rest of your life! During this time, it will be sensitive to heat, touch, and can be easily irritated. Initial bleeding and discharge at this point is normal. Any Discharge at this time is a mixture of body fluid and residual ink that just stained the outermost layers of skin and not into the skin.

DAY 7-14

At this time, your tattoo will begin to dry up. It WILL get itchy, this is normal! At this time, do not let it dry out and **DO NOT SCRATCH.**

DAYS 15-30

Most of the scabbing and the dry skin will be gone by this time, it will appear almost healed but it is not fully healed. Deeper layers are still healing so you need to continue taking care of your tattoo. You may have noticed that your tattoo looks blurry, milky or faded. This layer of skin will go away and your tattoo will brighten up again. After this stage you can look for touch-ups and additional work.

INFECTION, REACTION or ROUGH HEAL?

DISCLAIMER: Be advised that the shop would like to be notified of any issues with the healing process, but we cannot assist with any complications, This advice is for your information but cannot replace that of a licensed physician and you are advised to seek medical help and assessment in the event of any problems that may occur.

Regardless of how many tattoos you have, there is always potential for health risks. You can decrease the risk of infection by following the directions provided and the care told to you by your tattoo artist. If you have other diseases or health concerns, you may be at risk for complications. These may occur even if you properly care for your new tattoo.

Every tattoo, every person and every time is different!

Every tattoo artist uses different techniques, inks, and needles. There is no way of predicting how all these factors will react with each individual or the reactions that can occur. Tattooing pigment into skin is not a normal process for the human body. Everyone's body is different, this response can change due to age, level of health, body chemistry, and immune system over time. The way your skin reacted the first time might be different than this time.

Reactions

The most common type of negative reaction is dermatitis. Dermatitis will cause inflammation, rashes and/or swelling around the tattoo site. If you have sensitive skin, you might develop a simple irritation around the tattoo site due to skin

trauma and not due to any of the inks used. In rare cases a severe allergic reaction can occur where the body will reject the ink resulting in swelling, and lack of colour remaining in the tattoo.

Infection

If you see signs of swelling, heat/fever, ache/pains, redness or streaks and/or pus, you might have an infection in or around your tattoo. Consult a doctor as soon as possible and follow the doctor's treatment plan before it leads to more serious problems or complications.

Rough Heal

Picking at your tattoo, bumping it, scratching it or failing to follow aftercare instructions can cause your tattoo to heal slower than normal. You might see signs of a rough heal such as thick scabbing, increased redness, and an overall irritated appearance. This can be in one area or all over. You do not need to be concerned about this unless a medical condition appears.