

## Tattoo Aftercare Instructions

- Remove the bandage after one to two hours. All wounds need to breathe in order to heal properly.
- To wash your tattoo: Use your fingertips or hand only. Use a mild antibacterial soap and warm water. Take care to remove all traces of blood to prevent scabbing. Finish by running the tattoo under cold water to reseal the pores. Do not scrub the tattoo with a washcloth during the two week healing time. Pat the tattoo dry with a clean, soft cloth; or just let it air dry.
- Apply a thin coat of bacitracin ointment at least 3 times a day for the first 3 days, then switch to an unscented lotion like Lubriderm or Curel until your tattoo is completely healed - Usually within 2 weeks, sometimes longer for slower healers.
- Keep your tattoo clean and only touch with clean hands.
- Avoid long showers or baths for 2 weeks or until scab has healed. Also, avoid prolonged soaking so no swimming, hot tubs, saunas. This includes natural bodies of water like oceans, lakes, and rivers. Keep showers to under 10 minutes and run the tattoo under cold water when finished to reseal the pores.
- Do not scratch or pick at your tattoo! Scabs are the root of your color, picking scabs will take the color with it. You may gently pat your tattoo or apply a thin layer of lotion.
- The sun can be bad for your tattoo! Even if you've had a tattoo for a very long time! Sunburn on tattoos can cause many problems, including drying out your tattoo and forming a horrendous scab and causing the tattoo to fade before it is completely healed. The sun can also delay healing time of a tattoo and promotes scarring. Please wait for your tattoo to heal completely before going into the sun or a tanning bed. Make sure to use a high quality sun block (not sunscreen) but do not apply sunblock while a tattoo is in the healing process. Over time, the sun will cause any tattoo to fade.
- Following all of these simple steps will ensure that you end up with the best result with minimal complications and your tattoo will stay looking bright and beautiful for many years to come.