



## **TATTOO AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS**

Now that you're INKED UP you'll want to take good care of your fresh art. It is very important that you follow these guidelines. A really beautiful tattoo can turn into a disaster if the proper aftercare is not taken.

### **WASH AND TREAT**

Remove bandage after 3 hours, and wash your tattoo. Use lukewarm water and mild, liquid antibacterial or antimicrobial soap to gently wash away any ointment, blood and/or plasma and to completely clean the area. Do not use a washcloth or anything abrasive. Simply pat (do not rub) the area firmly with a CLEAN paper towel to get it completely dry. Follow with a very light application of ointment Bacitracin 3 times a day for 2 days only. After that, continue to keep it clean, but you use lotion instead of ointment, to keep the skin soft. Whatever lotion you use, it should be dye and fragrance free.

### **BATHING AND SWIMMING**

It's OK to get your tattoo wet -just don't soak it. Submerging your tattoo in a bath or hot tub can cause serious damage, so you'll want to avoid those for 2-3 weeks, but showering is perfectly fine as long as you don't saturate your tattoo. If you get soap or shampoo on your tattoo, just remove it quickly with water. Swimming - whether it is a pool, fresh water or salt water - should be avoided for at least 2 weeks.

### **SCABBING AND PEELING**

After a few days, you will notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. A little scabbing is normal. Apply warm moist compresses to the scabs for about 5 minutes 2-3 times a day to soften them and they will eventually come off on their own. (Do not apply ointment or lotion to a softened scab - wait for it to dry) You will also start to itch, just like a sunburn when it begins to heal. Don't pick or scratch your healing tattoo! If it is peeling, put lotion on it and if it is scabbing just leave it alone. Your tattoo is almost healed, and now is not the time to ruin it!

### **UV PROTECTION**

After your tattoo has healed, you will want to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. These can fade and damage tattoos very quickly. Before spending a lot of time in excessive heat, protect your tattoo with a minimum 30SPF sunblock. This will keep your tattoo vibrant.

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