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TATTOO AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your tattoo has been done under clean, professional conditions using the utmost modern sterilization techniques and the finest tattooing pigment available.

Now it's up to you to take proper care of it. The chance of infection or damage to your new tattoo is minimal if aftercare instructions are followed correctly.

- ❖ Leave the bandage that you received after the tattoo for 2-6 hours (no more than 10 hours). The bandage is there to keep airborne bacteria and other contaminants in the environment from invading your wound and potentially causing infection.
- ❖ Before cleaning or touching the tattooed areas, WASH HANDS thoroughly with soap and warm water. Treat your new tattoo as an open wound.
- ❖ Carefully remove the bandage. If it sticks, gently wet any applied bandage and gently pull off so as not to damage any scabs or dried matter. Don't force its removal!
- ❖ After removing the bandage, cleanse the area with mild anti-bacterial soap and water then rinse. Do not scrub the tattoo or rub with washcloth or towel. Pat the tattoo with a clean, dry towel. You do not need to re-bandage.
- ❖ Let the tattoo dry completely (approx. 10 min). If oozing occurs, pat gently with a clean paper towel.
- ❖ Lightly apply a thin layer of acceptable aftercare products:
 - Vitamin A & D ointment or Aquaphor
- ❖ For 3-5 days, make sure the tattoo is kept very clean and apply ointment 3-4 times a day by cleansing any old ointment and applying a thin layer of fresh ointment—(only enough to make the skin shiny). Do not allow your tattoo to become dry. If scab does form, do not pick at it but allow it to heal on its own.
- ❖ Don't panic if you have a reaction to your aftercare product. You may be sensitive to one of the ingredients. Although not a major problem, it does happen. The skin can react in a few ways, from redness to irritable itchy skin to white pimple like spots. If this occurs, stop using your aftercare product. Lightly wash off the remaining product from your skin. A reaction to a product should settle down within 24-72 hours. If you are still experiencing a problem after 14 days, it would be doubtful that the aftercare product was to blame and the cause may be a reaction to the ink. This is possible even if you have been previously tattooed without any problems. Should this occur, contact the studio for advice from the artist. It may also require a visit to your physician if the problem persists.
- ❖ After 3-5 days, switch to a fragrance free lotion or gentle moisturizer as needed until completely healed. It is best to use a moisturizer with aloe or vitamin E as this will help heal damaged skin. Regularly moisturizing a tattoo helps to keep the skin soft and keep the colors bright. Also, the sun can irreversibly damage even a well healed tattoo so remember to use a good sun block with strong SPF when spending time outdoors.
- ❖ Healing generally takes 14 days in a normal healthy adult. As it heals, expect peeling similar to sunburned skin.
- ❖ Itching is expected. **DO NOT SCRATCH THE TATTOO! DO NOT GO INTO HOT TUBS UNTIL FULLY HEALED.**

Do not use:

- Vaseline or other petroleum jellies.
- Heavily medicated antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin.
- Iodine, peroxide, or alcohol based product.

Most problems or irritations occur from:

- Scratching or itching a new tattoo.
- Tanning or swimming before the tattoo is healed
- Using inappropriate amounts or types of aftercare products.

You may expect some slight swelling, redness and discomfort around the site.

If any of the following symptoms appear promptly consult a Physician:

- Unusual drainage
- Excessive bleeding
- Excessive pain / discomfort
- Excessive swelling/ redness/ feeling that skin is hot to touch
- Temperature greater than 101°F within 24 hours of the tattoo