

Tattoo aftercare

Simple steps to care for your new tattoo.

Always wash and dry your hands before touching your tattoo.

01 REMOVE THE DRESSING

For ordinary cling film, remove after **1-3 hours if advised by your artist**. Adhesive “second skin” dressings have different wear times: follow the specific instructions provided for your dressing.

02 CLEAN & PAT DRY

Gently wash with lukewarm water and a mild, fragrance-free soap recommended by your artist. Use clean hands; do not scrub. Rinse, then pat dry with fresh disposable kitchen towel. Do not rub or use a shared towel.

Clean again before bed and the following morning. **Re-wrap only if your artist has specifically instructed you to**, using fresh film and their timings. Never reuse a dressing.

03 CONTINUE YOUR DAILY CARE

Once the dressing is removed, gently wash **twice daily** and after getting dirty. When clean and dry, apply a **very thin layer** of fragrance-free moisturiser or the aftercare product recommended by your artist. Use sparingly, usually twice daily; do not leave a thick coating.

Some early tenderness, mild redness, flaking and itching can occur. These should gradually improve. Keep up gentle aftercare while the skin heals; healing time varies, and two weeks does not always mean fully healed.

04 WHILE YOUR TATTOO IS HEALING

- Take short showers; do not soak in baths, swim or use hot tubs.
- Do not pick scabs, scratch or pull away peeling skin.
- Avoid sunbathing, sunbeds and direct sun on the tattoo.
- Wear clean, loose clothing and avoid rubbing the area.
- Do not let other people touch your fresh tattoo.

WHEN TO GET HELP

Increasing pain, spreading redness, worsening swelling, heat, pus, an unpleasant smell, fever or feeling unwell may indicate infection. **Seek prompt advice from your GP or NHS 111** and let the studio know. Do not wait until day three if symptoms are worsening.