



TATTOO AFTERCARE INSTRUCTIONS

Please read and follow these steps to the letter to ensure your tattoo is well protected and can heal properly. Once your Tattoo Artist has completed your tattoo, it will be given a thorough wash with green soap to ensure that the surface is as clean as it can be before applying the wrap.

STEP 01 – SANIDERM BANDAGE

Your Tattoo Artist will apply a clear, adhesive bandage named “Saniderm” directly over top of your tattoo. This will help keep it clean, dry, and protected during the most critical healing point. The Saniderm should remain on your skin for a **MINIMUM** of 24 hours. It can be left on for up to a **MAXIMUM** of 5 days.

- Should the wrap peel back and expose the tattoo in any way or lift up to provide a channel for germs and bacteria to enter then the wrap must be taken off and the tattoo should be cleaned right away.
- The wrap is water *resistant*, **NOT** waterproof. You may have a quick shower with it on but try to avoid getting it too wet. Water, steam, humidity, and moisture will loosen the adhesive.
- **DO NOT** submerge it into water at any point as this can allow bacteria to breed underneath the wrap and can cause a risk of infection.
- Please note that because the Saniderm is going to provide a secure barrier on your skin all the way around your tattoo, you may notice that it can get very goopy inside. This is normal. Your body is going to naturally weep out any excess ink, blood, plasma, etc and it will pool under the wrap. Do not worry, the longer you can keep the wrap on, that will naturally dry up. It will not do any harm to the tattoo.
- Avoid activities that may cause your skin to sweat while the bandage is on as this is an almost definite way to break the seal of adhesive resulting in the bandage falling off.
- The longer you can keep the bandage on, the quicker and better your tattoo is going to heal. Allowing the bandage to stay on for 5 days may cut your healing time in half.

STEP 02 – REMOVE THE BANDAGE

Once the 1-5 day mark has passed, it is now time to remove the Saniderm wrap. **WASH YOUR HANDS!** Wash your hands for at least 30 seconds with an Antibacterial soap and dry them with a clean towel or paper towel. Once your hands are clean, it is safe to remove the wrap. You may choose to do this in the shower since the warm water will help loosen the adhesive. Always remove the wrap from the top down in case there were multiple sheets layered on (depending on the size and location of your tattoo). Dispose of the wrap safely into the garbage.

STEP 03 – CLEAN YOUR TATTOO

Once you have removed the wrap, it is now time to clean your tattoo. This is the **MOST IMPORTANT STEP** in this process. Your hands carry germs and bacteria that can be very harmful to your fresh tattoo. *GENTLY* wash away any residue from the wrap over your tattoo and the surrounding area in soft, circular motion with a **NON-SCENTED, NON-MEDICATED** soap.

- **ALWAYS** use PUMP soap, **NEVER** use BAR soap. Bar soap can carry surface bacteria that can be harmful to your tattoo and can cause a risk of infection.
- **Soft Soap Original** is the recommended brand by Black Petal Tattoo but any all-natural soap will do.

STEP 04 – DRY YOUR TATTOO

Once you have sufficiently washed your tattoo, gently **PAT** your tattoo and the surrounding area dry with a **clean paper towel**. **DO NOT** rub your tattoo to dry it. Once you have completed this step, allow it breath freely in the air for around 30 minutes.

- **ALWAYS** use PAPER towel, **NEVER** use CLOTH towels. Cloth towels can be rough on the skin, can easily be stained from ink, and can also carry surface bacteria that can be harmful to your tattoo and can cause a risk of infection.

STEP 05 – MOISTURIZE

Once you have sufficiently dried your tattoo and allowed it to breathe, it is now time to apply a *very thin* layer of Tattoo Aftercare, unscented lotion/moisturizer, or coconut oil. Start with half a pinky nail at a time and gently rub it over your tattoo, applying it over the whole area.

- Apply only enough that you can see it just shimmer in the light. The objective is to allow the skin to stay hydrated enough to heal without scabbing.
- **DO NOT** over-apply the lotion so much that you smother the tattoo. This can breed bacteria and cause a risk of infection.
- If you decide to use coconut oil, only use **FRESH** coconut oil (not the jar from your kitchen pantry). Opened jars can harbour bacteria that causes a risk of infection when transferring onto a fresh tattoo.
- **Hustle Butter Tattoo Aftercare** is the recommended aftercare brand by Black Petal Tattoo and is available for sale at our shop.

STEP 06 – WASH, DRY, REPEAT

Once you have completed the previous steps, **MAKE IT ROUTINE**. You will repeat this step **ONCE A DAY**. It is critical to repeat these steps for **2-3 WEEKS** after the tattoo has been applied to ensure that your skin heals properly and the tattoo ink can stay well-saturated under your healed skin.

DO'S & DON'TS AND THINGS TO NOTE

- **DO** – Always keep in mind that your tattoo is an open wound and it must be treated with care. Tattoos are **NOT** permanent until they have fully healed.
- **DO** – Ask questions to the shop or artist if you're unsure or unclear about any step along the way. We are more than happy to help.
- **DO** – Wear *loose, soft clothing* over tattoo during the healing process if your daily activities require it to be covered. **AVOID** tight and/or abrasive fabrics such as denim, corduroy, scratchy wool, etc.
- **DON'T** – Submerge your tattoo into water for at least 2-3 weeks. This includes baths, swimming pools/lakes, saunas, steam rooms, dish sinks, etc. Showering **IS** okay.
- **DON'T** – Keep your tattoo in the direct sun. This can cause sunburn and can also **RAPIDLY** fade your tattoo. If your daily activities require you to be in the sun, keep your tattoo covered as best you can.
- **DON'T** – Use products like Polysporin in lieu of moisturizer, unless advised by a medical professional to treat an incurring infection. Polysporin will attack the tattoo and aid in rejecting it from healing under the skin properly.