

# TATTOO AFTERCARE

Follow Your Artist's Instructions!

Your tattoo artist might provide specific aftercare instructions tailored to their technique and your skin type.

Always prioritize their advice.

## **Initial Bandage:**

**Leave It On:** Keep the bandage or wrap on for the amount of time your artist recommends, usually a few hours to overnight. This helps protect the tattoo from bacteria and keeps it clean.

**Gentle Cleansing:** **First Wash:** After removing the bandage, gently wash the tattoo with lukewarm water and mild, unscented soap. Use your fingers, not a washcloth or sponge.

**Pat Dry Gently** pat the area dry with a clean, soft towel or paper towel. Avoid rubbing.

**Moisturize:** **Apply Ointment** Use a thin layer of a tattoo-specific ointment (like Aquaphor or a product recommended by your artist) for the first few days. Avoid heavy lotions or petroleum-based products.

**Switch to Lotion:** After 1-2 weeks, you can switch to a fragrance-free, non-comedogenic lotion. Apply a thin layer as needed to keep the tattoo moisturized.

**Avoid Picking or Scratching:** **Healing Process** As your tattoo heals, it may itch or flake. Avoid scratching or picking at it, as this can cause scarring or affect the design.

## **Protect from Sun and Water:**

**Sun Exposure:** Keep the tattoo out of direct sunlight, as UV rays can fade the ink. Once healed, always use sunscreen on the tattoo if exposed to the sun.

**Avoid Submersion:** Don't submerge the tattoo in water (like swimming pools or baths) until it's fully healed. Showers are fine, but avoid soaking the tattoo.

**Wear Loose Clothing:** If the tattoo is on an area that rubs against clothing, wear loose, breathable clothing to avoid irritation.

**Watch for Signs of Infection:** Some redness and swelling are normal, but excessive or increasing redness, swelling, or pus can indicate infection. If you notice these symptoms, contact a healthcare professional.

**Healing Time:** Fine-line tattoos generally heal in 2-4 weeks, but full healing under the skin can take longer. Follow your artist's advice on when it's safe to resume normal activities.

