

SHEDDING SKIN ***TATTOO & PIERCING*** ***TATTOO AFTERCARE***

Now that you have a new tattoo, taking care of it is one of the most important steps to ensuring that it heals and looks as good as the day you got it done!

Leave the plastic barrier alone for 1 hour. Do not leave it on for longer than 2 hours because it can start to generate heat under the plastic and can increase the risk of infection. As soon as you take the barrier off, gently wash your tattoo with an antibacterial soap (make sure it is **unscented**, we recommend Dial White or Dial Gold). Use the suds of the soap to wash off the slimy feeling layer completely until it feels like the rest of your skin. Then pat dry. **DO NOT** wipe dry your tattoo as this will cause further irritation and potentially wipe away scabs and harm your tattoo. **DO NOT REWRAP YOUR TATTOO WITH PLASTIC EVER WHILE HEALING!!!** Wash, air-dry, and reapply ointment the morning after you receive your tattoo. Then wash as needed throughout the day (if the tattoo is weeping or becomes slimy). 2x a day the first two to three days. After that, once a day is usually enough.

That slimy layer is your platelets trying to build a scab over your new tattoo. If that layer dries, it will form a scab over your tattoo. To prevent your tattoo from scabbing, you must wash it gently whenever that slimy layer forms. You can prevent scabbing by following your aftercare instructions, however, you cannot prevent your tattoo from peeling. On average your tattoo will take 1-2 weeks to heal and finish peeling. Your tattoo will still be healing after this, and it is common for your tattoo to look glossy for another week or two from the new layer of skin that has formed

We recommend using **Bacitracin** antibiotic ointment for the first 3-4 days, then switching to regular **unscented** lotion. **DO NOT USE Vaseline , Aquaphor or Neosporin!!!** These are detrimental to the healing and end appearance of your tattoo!

Applying ointment: You only want to use a **very little amount** on your tattoo or you run the risk of suffocating it. Your body will treat your tattoo as if it were a scrape or cut, so it needs air to properly heal. When applying ointment, apply a **small amount** to the tip of your finger and dot it around on your tattoo and gently massage it into your tattoo. Expect your tattoo to feel tender or sore the first couple of days. Apply ointment every 3-4 hours or whenever it feels dry. If your tattoo is shining in the light, that means you have far too much ointment on your tattoo and you need to pat off the extra with a clean paper towel.

Everyone heals differently, but as long as you take care of your tattoo, you should not have any complications. After the healing period, if your tattoo needs a touch up, come on in and set up an appointment. We are more than happy to make sure you are satisfied with your tattoo! **Thank you for choosing Shedding Skin! :)**

THE ONLY SUPPLIES YOU NEED:

Bacitracin, Dial White or Gold, Unscented Lotion

SHEDDING SKIN

TATTOO & PIERCING

TATTOO AFTERCARE (SIMPLIFIED)

1. After the first hour of getting your tattoo, take off the plastic barrier and gently wash with unscented antibacterial soap (Dial White or Gold).
2. Allow your tattoo to air-dry for 15-20 minutes so that it can create its own protective layer.
3. Apply a small amount of ointment to your finger, gently dab it around on your tattoo and massage it in.
It should not look wet or greasy. If this happens, that means that you either have applied too much ointment or your tattoo needs to be washed again
4. Repeat steps 1-3 two times a day the first 1-3 days, then washing once a day is typically enough.
5. After the first 3-4 days, you can switch from the ointment to regular unscented lotion.
6. Lightly moisturize/ apply ointment as needed (when the tattoo begins to feel tight or dry).
7. Let your tattoo get as much air as possible!

THE DON'TS

1. Your tattoo will begin to itch while it's healing. **DO NOT** pick at or scratch at your tattoo. You **CAN** pat it if you need, but scratching can chip at the ink and scabs and potentially scar your tattoo.
2. **DO NOT** soak your tattoo under water until it is completely done peeling (no swimming, hot tubs, baths, or saunas) it needs air to heal. Showers are okay but don't allow the water to continuously beat down on your tattoo.
3. **DO NOT** go tanning or expose your tattoo to the sun. Keep it covered with loose clothing when going outside, and continue to cover and use sunblock after healing to assure your tattoo ages nicely!
4. **DO NOT** wear tight clothing over your tattoo while healing.
5. **DO NOT** use Vaseline, Aquaphor, or Neosporin!!
6. **DO NOT EVER** rewrap your tattoo with plastic!!

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