

# Albert Street Tattoo Client Aftercare Information



Your tattoo has been applied by a qualified tattoo artist. Follow these instructions and your tattoo should heal smoothly. **If you have any problems or questions, please contact us. Your tattoo artist is the only person qualified to give you tattoo advice.**

Your tattoo is a wound. It will be sore and swollen for several days. This is normal. Pain relievers can be taken to ease the discomfort.

**Keeping the area clean and protected is extremely important in the healing process.**

**Remove the Bandage as per Artist's Instructions.** The purpose of the dressing is to protect your tattoo from any airborne bacteria. During the first few hours, it is normal for your tattoo to seep some fluid. This is ink, ointment and blood.

**Washing Your Tattoo** Remove the bandage in the shower, after the room is nice and steamy. Wash your tattoo, after first washing your hands thoroughly. Use warm water and a mild unscented soap. Use only your hands, no washcloths as they cause too much friction and can damage your healing skin. Wash your tattoo a few times per day for the first 3-5 days. If it is in a high traffic area, as the forearm, or hands, wash the tattoo separately, after each time you wash your hands. Always pat dry with a clean towel. Let the tattoo dry 12-24 hours after the FIRST WASH before you start applying ointment.

**Ointment** The ointment provided, or an unscented lotion, should be applied to the tattoo with CLEAN hands. Less is more. Apply when the skin feels tight. Too much lotion can cause any possible scabs to fall off too quickly which would leave voids in the ink. Not enough lotion may cause the tattoo to dry out and crack. This too can affect the final appearance of your healed tattoo.

**Do Not Recover Your Tattoo with a bandage or plastic wrap.** This will deprive your healing skin of oxygen as well as create a moist environment where bacteria can grow and cause infection.

**Signs of Infection** While it is highly unlikely that you would get an infection from our processes, you can still contract infectious bacteria in the first few days while your tattoo is open and unprotected by the top layer of skin. If you have excess swelling or redness after the first few days, green or yellow discharge, pain and redness, splitting, oozing or cracking and bleeding in a tattoo more than 5 days old, contact us immediately and consider visiting an urgent care clinic. If you have streaks radiating from the tattoo, seek medical care immediately.

**Do Not Pick or Peel Your Tattoo.** Most tattoos heal in 7-10 days. Sometimes scabs may form. Whether you have scabs or just peeling skin, do not disturb the healing skin. It is normal for the tattoo to itch during the healing process. Scratching or picking can cause further scabbing which will extend your healing time and possibly cause ugly scarring and colour loss. It is not unusual for milky skin to form over. It will settle out and is nothing to worry about. Do not fret

**Avoid Submerging the Tattoo in Water While Healing.** This means DO NOT immerse the tattoo in a bath, hot tub, lake, river, ocean, pool or sauna for 3 weeks. Chlorine and salt water can damage the outcome of your tattoo. Showers only. Soaking in water can cause infection, excess scabbing **and will result in damage to your tattoo.**

**Avoid Direct Sunlight.** Tanning and sunbathing MUST be avoided during the healing process. A new tattoo has little or no skin protecting it from the sun. You can burn it in as little as 5 minutes, resulting in MUCH longer healing times, colour change and loss, as well as possible SCARRING. Do not put sunblock on your tattoo until it is FULLY HEALED. It can react with the new ink in the skin and leach out the ink. Once fully healed ALWAYS protect your investment, and our art, with an SPF 30 or more sunscreen to keep it vibrant. Even if your skin does not normally burn, the sun WILL fade your ink, just as it bleaches hair colour.

**Proper aftercare will determine the result of your tattoo. Should you require touch ups, please call to book an appointment or stop by the studio to let the artist assess the result. Ask your specific artist about fees for touch ups. Touch ups should be done in the first 3 months. A fee will definitely be in place if you wait longer.**