

Key Advice

The aftercare following a tattoo is important to promote good healing and prevent the risk of infection.

For the first week or so it is normal for the area to be red and tender.

As with all body art, infection is a risk. To reduce those risks take advice from your tattooist regarding the aftercare.

The risk of infection can be greatly reduced by good general hygiene including:

- Hand washing before touching the tattoo.
- Keeping the tattooed area covered with cling film in areas prone to rubbing on clothes, especially if you must be active during the day.

Signs of infection

If appropriate aftercare is not followed infection may occur. The signs of infection are:

- Swelling and redness that increases around the wound.
- A severe burning and throbbing sensation round the site.
- Increased tenderness and increasingly painful to touch.
- An unusual discharge (yellow or green) with an offensive smell.

Speak to your tattooist or seek medical attention immediately if you suffer from any of the above or if there are signs of an allergic reaction to any of the products.

Tattoo aftercare

Good practice is to cover the tattooed area with non stick plastic film or non-stick gauze which is then secured with hypo-allergenic tape.

When you get home....

Take the plastic film off (try and leave it on for at least 4 hours).

Wash gently with lukewarm soapy water and dry with a clean towel or paper towel by applying pressure rather than rubbing or dabbing.

Let the tattoo air dry and then apply a thin coat of tattoo aftercare. Continue this process 3 to 5 times a day until the tattoo has healed (about 10-14 days).

Any cream that you apply must be used from an appropriate pot/tube at home and you should wash your hands before application. Tattoo aftercare can be bought here at TOKYOTATTOO® or in any supermarket or pharmacy. (Please ask your artist for details)

Antibiotic creams should not be used except if infection has occurred and under supervision of your doctor.

After 2 to 3 days a light scab may appear, do not pick or scratch this as it will affect the outcome of your tattoo.

For the first few weeks....

NO swimming or soaking – showering is fine but no bathing.

NO tanning – and keep your tattoo out of the sun. After two weeks, if you do decide to tan, you should wear an SPF 50 product.

DO NOT pick or scratch your tattoo as this can cause permanent damage to your tattoo.

DO NOT let other people touch your healing tattoo.

Hand Washing

Hand washing is the single most important method of reducing infection. Hands must be washed prior to touching the affected area, therefore reducing the risk of infection.

Wash your hands in warm water and liquid soap, always dry your hands thoroughly. This should remove most germs and prevent them being transferred to the affected area.