TIME HONORED
TATTOO

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AFTERCARE WITH OINTMENT

Follow these steps exactly and your new tattoo will heal clean, bright and sharp.

PICK THESE UP BEFORE YOU TAKE THE BANDAGE OFF

- Aquaphor (made by Eucerin, in the lotion aisle at most drugstores)
- Antibacterial liquid soap
- Paper towels
- Plastic wrap (like Saran Wrap) and Scotch or medical tape
- A high-grade, unscented lotion. We recommend Aveeno, Lubriderm or Curel.

> Lotions work differently on different people. If a rash shows up, stop using it and contact us.

DAY ONE

1. **Leave the bandage on for 2 to 4 hours.** This is very important.
2. **Wash your hands** every single time before you touch your tattoo. Then remove the bandage. You'll see blood, ink and lymph (an almost colorless fluid that's part of your body's defense against infection).
3. **Wash with HOT water**, as hot as you can stand without burning yourself. It's uncomfortable but won't hurt the tattoo. Rinse for a few minutes using your hand and antibacterial soap. This pulls out what causes thick scabs and sets you up to heal right.
4. **Air dry for 10 minutes.** Blot dry only the wet areas around the tattoo.
5. **Apply a thin layer of Aquaphor.** Just a small dab, enough to cover. Rub it in with your fingertips. It's an ointment, but use it like a lotion.

THE FIRST TWO NIGHTS

6. **Wrap it and sleep in it.** Cover the tattoo with fresh plastic wrap and tape it on. This lets it bleed out and stay moist, and keeps hair, lint and sheets from sticking to it and ruining part of your tattoo. It's less comfortable, but it's a SUPER important key to sweet healing.
7. **In the morning, unwrap and wash again** with hot water, your hand and antibacterial soap. Let it air dry.
8. **Apply another thin layer of Aquaphor** and massage it in. A thick layer traps dirt and particles. Don't re-wrap during the day unless your artist tells you to.

THE FIRST 48 HOURS

9. **Every 2 to 4 hours:** wash your tattoo, then apply a thin layer of Aquaphor.

AFTER 48 HOURS

10. **Switch from Aquaphor to your unscented lotion.** Always wash the tattoo before applying lotion.
11. **Expect flaking in 5 to 8 days.** It will peel like a sunburn and little bits of color will come off. That's just surface ink. Keep washing and applying lotion every 2 to 4 hours until it's done. Don't pick the flakes; let them come off on their own.
12. **Small pimple-like bumps?** That's a reaction to the Aquaphor or lotion. Stop using it and call us for alternatives. It should clear up in about 72 hours.

UNTIL IT'S HEALED

- Keep your tattoo out of the sun.
- Don't touch it, and keep clothing friction (socks, bra straps, belts) away from it as much as you can.
- No pools, hot tubs, oceans or soaking in water until it's fully healed.
- Don't let drunk friends (or your pets) lick your tattoo. Seriously.

TOUCH-UPS

Touch-ups needed because of your own negligence are at your own expense. Otherwise, your artist will offer one free touch-up if they decide it's needed. The free touch-up is good for 60 days from your tattoo date and excludes hands, feet and anything above the shoulders.

DISCLAIMER: These guidelines are based on extensive professional experience, common sense, research and clinical practice. They are not a substitute for medical advice from a doctor. If you suspect an infection, seek medical attention. Many doctors have no specific training with tattoos, so we can refer you to a tattoo-friendly medical professional. Please also report any problems to your local environmental health agency.

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