Aftercare Advise

Your new tattoo has involved breaking the surface of the skin and there is a possibility that, if not cared for correctly, your new tattoo may become infected. By following the advice given, you will be reducing the chance of anything going wrong with your tattoo.

How to treat your tattoo

Your new tattoo is an open wound, it is an area of tiny skin breaks which have been caused by the penetration of needles carrying ink into your skin. It is important that you keep the dressing applied by your tattooist for a minimum of 2 hours. It is completely normal for your tattoo to discharge plasma and excess ink in this time.

Once you remove the dressing, you should wash your tattoo gently with warm water and mild soap, using clean hands (do not use a sponge or any kind of cloth to clean). You can then gently pat dry with clean tissue paper - avoid using towels.
Continue this process of cleaning for the next 3 days, 2-3 times per day, this allows your tattoo breath and begin the healing process.

On day 3 you should begin to apply an occlusive skin cream after each time you wash and pat your tattoo dry, this provides a protective barrier and helps reduce scabbing - recommended cream is, cocoa butter.

You should aim to wash your tattoo and apply the cream 2-3 times per day to keep the skin protected until your tattoo is fully healed.

Everyone heals at a different rate and healing times depend on many factors. However, most scabbing should disappear within approximately 2 weeks - the next stage is for the tattoo to be covered in a silver skin which will last approximately a week - in total, and because of variable skin, your new tattoo should be completely healed within approximately 4 weeks.

General tips for aftercare

Do not submerge your new tattoo in water, take showers during the healing period - this prevents unnecessary water exposure - always pat your tattoo dry with clean tissue paper, do not wipe dry with a towel.

Do not pick or scratch your tattoo, this will increase the healing time and will also pull out the ink, leaving scars and compromising the tattoo.

Avoid swimming, sunbathing and sun beds until your tattoo is fully healed, sunlight and chlorine can interact with the ink in your tattoo causing irritation or inflammation of your skin, and public pools contain bacteria.

Where possible, minimise the amount of touching or rubbing and wear loose clothing around the area of the tattoo - this will minimise irritation of the skin around your tattoo and also accidental ink pulls.

Keep your tattoo covered if working in a dirty or dusty environment.

If you have any problems or questions at anytime, please feel free to contact your tattoo artist.