

# TATTOO HEALING CARE

Once the tattoo procedure is done, proper aftercare is essential to the healing, and will affect the outcome of your tattoo. Improper care or neglect during the healing process can result in permanent negative effects, such as color loss and less than perfect details. After the artist has completed the application of the tattoo, it is up to you to finish the process properly by following the healing instructions listed below.

**Remove bandage after two hours** and thoroughly wash your tattoo with a mild soap and warm water. Rinse with water, and dry your tattoo with clean paper towels. Keep tattoo uncovered and able to “breathe” for 2 hours, then apply a thin layer of ointment (all natural, petroleum free is best) and cover the entire area with transparent plastic wrap, and tape the wrap in place if necessary.

The plastic wrap is an important step designed to keep the tattoo from drying out and help prevent excessive scabbing from forming in the early stages of healing. It also acts as a barrier between your tattooed skin, and your clothing from rubbing up against it, or any other outside elements from getting in to your wound. When you remove the plastic wrap, thoroughly clean the entire area with soap and water, rinse, and pat dry with clean paper towels.

**For the first 3-5 days**, Keep the area covered with plastic wrap both day and night. It is essential to change the wrap every 6 hours or so, and always clean away any plasma from the surface of the skin each time you remove the wrap. Be sure to give the skin some time to “breathe” exposing it to oxygen for at least an hour or more in between wrappings.

**After a few days**, you can begin leaving the tattooed area unwrapped and exposed to the air at night while you are relaxed, but it is best to continue wrapping your tattoo throughout the day while you are active, to avoid clothing irritating the tattooed area. Pay attention to the signs your body is giving you while the tattoo is unwrapped. It will need a very light layer of ointment from time to time while exposed to the air, but if your body is seeping fluid and starting to scab, that is a sign to continue wrapping for a few more days or nights. It is not unusual for people to need to continue to wrap the tattoo for up to a week or more.

**When you discontinue the plastic wrap**, you will need to use ointment 3-5 times a day in a very light layer. The tattoo should not scab more than a very light, paper-thin layer, which will flake away within a few days if it occurs at all. You can switch to a water based lotion towards the end of the healing cycle if you prefer.

**For those who cannot use plastic wrap**, you will need to keep the area clean with soap and water and pat dry with clean paper towels daily. Apply ointment in small amounts between 2 - 4 times daily, and always remove excess ointment with clean paper towel after each application. Excessive moisture, in the form of either ointment or water, may lead to slower healing, and the building of thicker scab layers on the surface, which can lead to complications through the healing process.

Your body will go through stages healing the tattoo like it would any other surface wound. First, your body will develop a thin scab as a protective layer while healing begins beneath it. **Do not pick or remove scabs!** They will fall away on their own when the new skin beneath them is healed.

Medicated ointments will aid in the healing process if used correctly, but can complicate the process if used improperly. We have products available at the shop we recommend for the healing process, and will advise the use of one over another due to specific healing attributes of individual clients.

**DO NOT expose to sunlight**, tanning bed, chlorine, ocean, or submerge in any water for the duration of tattoo healing. Keep tattoo away from any unsanitary conditions throughout the entire healing procedure, and discontinue use of ointment after all scabs are gone. Most tattoos will take 8-12 days to surface heal, but it is not uncommon for some tattoos to take a bit longer depending on size, and color saturation, etc.

After surface healing is complete, the use of water based skin lotion is recommended. In caring for your skin, you are also preserving your tattoo. Exposure to sun and tanning beds can be harmful for your skin, and thus, especially bad for any tattooed areas. It is best for the longevity of your tattoo, to avoid any direct exposure by keeping tattooed areas covered. Otherwise, always use a high SPF sun block when outdoors, and apply generously every hour or two in direct sunlight. **High SPF sun block is NOT adequate protection for tanning beds, or new tattoos under 3-4 months old.**

If you have any questions, be sure to contact us for help, and not your friends!

CRUCIAL TATTOO STUDIO 410-860-1999 [www.CRUCIALTATTOO.com](http://www.CRUCIALTATTOO.com)

## Crucial Tattoo Studio Shop Policies

**Children are not permitted in any procedural areas of the shop** (this is for the safety of everyone involved), and must be accompanied by an adult in the lobby at all times. Please make sure to make tattoo appointments with this in mind.

## APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

When scheduling an appointment for a tattoo, and reserving an artist's time, it guarantees you a specific time and date to be tattooed. All other inquiries for this block of time will be turned away in order to keep the appointment scheduled for you. Because our tattoo artist's time is limited each day, and very sought after, we ask **before making any appointment be absolutely sure of your choice of tattoo design, and your availability for the date and time you agree to have the procedure done.** We DO NOT issue refunds for ANY deposits taken, for any reason, so please read over ALL information provided here BEFORE MAKING A DEPOSIT PAYMENT.

-All Tattoo artists are independently contracted professional artists, and any arrangements or deposits made with one artist, cannot be carried over to another artist.

-All tattoo appointments require a **non-refundable** deposit to be used as credit towards the final price of the tattoo. This credit will be carried over to the last appointment on all larger tattoo projects that might require more than one session to complete.

-The total tattoo deposit required to hold your appointment will be based on the amount of time reserved on the artist's schedule, at the rate of **\$50. Per hour reserved**; with a minimum deposit of \$50.

-All deposits will be used for the specific tattoo project only, and cannot be carried over to a new project. Design preparation takes time, and changes to your design cannot be made after you appointment has been set. Be sure of your design, and the direction you discuss with your artist **before setting an appointment**, to avoid any issues that might lead to you not being able to keep your scheduled appointment time. **Failure to keep your scheduled appointment may result in forfeiture of your deposit.**

**-If you cannot keep your scheduled tattoo appointment**, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the shop in advance. Deposits will be credited ONLY if the available time slot can be filled by another appointment. **The more advance notice you give... the better the chance that your deposit will remain in good standing.** Always CALL THE SHOP to notify us about any issues that come up that may keep you from keeping your appointment. DO NOT just email the artist, as they do not always get to check email daily, and may still result in a deposit loss.

-In the unfortunate cases when deposits become void, a new deposit is required before any appointment rescheduling can be made, or to keep any later appointments on the schedule that may have been previously set.

**-Please note:** Our tattoo deposits typically run less than half of the actual quoted estimated tattoo costs. When a client cannot follow through with the scheduled appointment, and the deposit is lost, the artist for whom that tattoo was scheduled ALSO LOSES MONEY on the remainder of that tattoo quote, for the time they could have been working on someone else. We have found after two decades of business, and multiple policies along the way regarding deposits, this is the fairest policy for both our artists, and clients alike. In essence, we both "share" the loss if you cannot make your scheduled date.

**Be sure to keep in touch with our shop, to give our staff notice far in advance** of any issues that may lead to keeping you from your scheduled appointment, to provide more options for a smooth reschedule, and no loss of deposit.

## PROCEDURES FOR MINORS

- Crucial Tattoo Studio recognizes the importance of providing a professional and safe environment to preform tattoo procedures for those under the age of 18, and unable to legally obtain a tattoo on their own. As minors are not legally recognized as adults, they will need to have the approval of an adult who is recognized as legally responsible for them.

**-Crucial Tattoo Studio will not perform procedures for anyone under the age of sixteen years old, for ANY reason.** For those between 16 and 18 years of age, the following conditions will apply.

-Legal Guardian must be present to sign appropriate paperwork, and present all necessary legal documentation to the Crucial Tattoo staff. Our staff must witness signatures.

-Photo identification must be presented for both the minor seeking the procedure, and the signing adult. All identification must be **official state or federally issued** documents. (example; valid drivers license or permit, walkers ID card, passport etc. NOT a school ID!)

-Proof of responsibility by the adult, regarding the minor, must be presented. All documents must be originals, or copies notarized as official documents with a raised seal. (example; birth certificate, official guardianship papers, marriage certificate)

-The names on the documentation must all match, and provide a link from adult to minor, in the event of a legal name change, official paperwork showing the change should also be made available. (Birth certificates showing mothers maiden name as different from the presented photo ID, will be accepted only if first and middle name on both documents match up accordingly).

-All minor consent paperwork must be completed at the shop, and signed off by one of our staff as "complete" before any appointments can be made on the calendar. No exceptions.

-NO minor under the age of 15 years old is permitted within the tattoo or body piercing procedure areas for any reason, due to safety concerns, and legal restrictions.

**PRIVACY POLICY-** You are important to us and any information entrusted to us is taken very seriously. Proper documentation is required for EACH tattoo procedure, and any copies will be used for record keeping purposes only. All information and documentation provided in order to legally obtain a tattoo will not be made available to **ANY** outside parties for any reason.