

**COLORFAST STUDIOS  
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## **TATTOO AFTERCARE**

### **INITIAL CARE (FIRST 24 HOURS)**

Once the tattoo is finished, it will be bandaged with plastic cellophane (Saran Wrap). Cellophane provides a clean barrier, which seals and protects your fresh tattoo. Leave the tattoo bandaged for at least one to two hours. Remove the bandage and wash your tattoo with warm water and mild soap (Dial Antibacterial soap). After washing the tattoo, apply a very thin layer of bacitracine to the tattoo and reapply a new plastic cellophane bandage. Change the bandage as often as is needed within the first 24 hours. Sealing the tattoo under airtight plastic helps minimize and sometimes prevent the tattoo from forming a thick, heavy scab. A tattoo that heals with a thick scab generally is more likely to heal with areas of color missing. These areas of missing color are referred to as "Holidays". Tattoos bandaged with cellophane for 24 hours, heal much faster than tattoos that are left unbandaged and are less likely to heal with holidays.

### **FOLLOW UP CARE (1-2 WEEKS)**

After the first 24 hours, remove the final bandage and wash the tattoo one last time. Do not bandage the tattoo again. The tattoo should remain unbandaged for the remainder of the healing phase. Apply a thin layer of unscented hand lotion (Lubriderm) to the tattoo twice daily. Rub the lotion into the skin. Do not over apply the lotion. Your tattoo should have just enough lotion on it to give it a slight shine.

In some cases, people have developed rashes around the tattoo area from the use of Lubriderm, although this is not common. If a rash does develop around the tattoo, simply discontinue the use of the hand lotion.

Healing time varies depending upon the individual. Average healing time is one to two weeks. Some people may experience longer healing time. Also, some colors have a tendency to take longer to heal than others. The color red, for example, often heals much slower than other colors and has a tendency to appear pink at first. Red usually takes a few days longer to darken to the proper tone of red.

It is important to think of your tattoo as an open wound. Keep it clean and avoid touching it when you are not caring for it. Do not pick, scratch, or itch your tattoo.

Do not soak your tattoo (no swimming). Only wet your tattoo when you are washing it and immediately pat it dry afterwards. Avoid exposing your tattoo to the sun until it is healed.

Following these instructions will guarantee your tattoo heals to its fullest potential.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Continue to care for your tattoo after it is healed to guarantee its longevity. The sun is the number one detrimental factor to the appearance of your tattoo. Prolonged exposure to the sun (tanning) will drastically fade the brilliance of a tattoo. Use sun block whenever you plan on spending time in the sun. The vibrancy of your tattoo will inevitably diminish with time. However, following these instructions should keep your tattoo bright and colorful for many years.