

### **Important Information**

Healing time for piercing and tattooing varies from person-to-person. The rate of infection is minimal if the aftercare is followed appropriately. It is very important to remember not to touch the pierced or tattooed site without first washing your hands. Normal body reactions to piercing and/or tattooing may include: minor redness, swelling, and/or discomfort at the site. **Be alert, however, to the signs of possible infection at the procedure site which can include any or all of the following: increased redness and swelling, pus-like drainage, prolonged pain and the onset of fever. If you experience any of these symptoms please consult a physician as soon as possible.**

### **The Pulse - Body Art Studio, LLC**

Call us if you have any questions regarding your body art.

Phone: (256) 233-4655 Athens

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## *Tattoo Aftercare Instructions*

Artist: \_\_\_\_\_

# Tattoo Aftercare

## What to Do:

**WASH YOUR HANDS!** Never touch your new tattoo without first washing your hands thoroughly with an antibacterial soap and always wash your hands after touching your tattoo! Your new tattoo is an open wound and should be treated as such.

**Remove bandage or covering in 2-4 hours.** Do not re-bandage! Your new tattoo must be allowed to “breathe.” If the bandage sticks to the tattoo, use a little warm water, moisten the bandage and pull it off slowly.

**Wash tattooed area gently at least twice daily** with a mild, unscented antibacterial soap or Carley’s natural soap. Do not scrub! Pat dry with a clean towel.

After cleansing **apply a thin coat of antibiotic ointment** to the tattoo. This should be done 2-4 times/day for the next three (3) days (up to 1 week). MiraCell can then be used as needed to keep the area comfortable and moisturized. Rub it in gently as you would lotion (if the area appears too glossy then you have applied too much—blot off any excess).

**Do not over-saturate** the area as it will “smother” your tattoo and prolong your healing time. Do not let the area dry out!

If you experience an allergic reaction to the aftercare product (which will appear as small pimples around the outside of the tattoo), we recommend discontinued use of the product. Some natural alternatives for the healing of your tattoo are Tattoo Lube and pure Aloe-Vera gel.

**After three (3) days**, you may switch from the after-care product to a fragrance free body lotion, such as Lubriderm, Aquaphor or Vaseline brand’s Intensive Care.

## The Rules:

**No direct sunlight, chlorine pools, hot tubs, steam rooms tanning booths or beds, or swimming in lakes, streams, rivers, etc. for at least 2 weeks!**

**Do not use Neosporin, scented hand lotion, baby oil, creams, Noxzema, or Vaseline on freshly tattooed areas.**

*Neosporin has been known to cause allergic reactions in a healing tattoo and petroleum jelly has the potential to pull the color from a tattoo.*

If a scabs develop, they can remove the color beneath them. It is very important that they are allowed to fall off on their own and not at any time get water-logged. **DO NOT PICK THE SCAB!!!**

A healing tattoo may itch. **Do not scratch it!**

Do not wear tight clothing over your new tattoo while it is healing.

If you wear a bra and the tattoo is in a location where the bra may rub or press into it, either go without a bra during the healing process or keep it loose. Also, for leg/foot tattoos, please do not wear panty hose for 7 to 10 days as the healing tattoo can bond with the nylon.

In the event that you do not follow proper aftercare of your tattoo and an infection occurs, please consult your physician immediately.

## Note:

Everyone heals at a different rate. You can expect your new tattoo to take approximately two weeks (14 days) to heal on the surface and up to **two months to heal completely.**

## Problems often occur when:

- ⇒ The tattoo is handled without first washing hands.
- ⇒ Using inappropriate agents for cleansing and healing.
- ⇒ The tattoo is subjected to harsh chemicals or unsanitary conditions (chlorine, direct sunlight, tanning beds, dusty environments, pet hair/dander).
- ⇒ The tattoo is subjected to infectious bacteria ( hot tubs, pools, lakes, rivers, tanning beds, pet hair/dander, etc.)
- ⇒ When the tattoo is neglected and aftercare is not followed.

## Note:

In the first weeks, the colors in your new tattoo may look “hazy” or not as bright as they did when it was first applied. Do not be alarmed, this is a normal course of healing and will clear up in a few short weeks.

## After your tattoo has healed:

If you spend a lot of time in the sun, please wear a sun block over your tattoo to help preserve the color!

It is recommended that you return in two weeks so we can check your tattoo.

