Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Screaming Needle Tattoo & Piercing Company

Aftercare Instructions for Tattoos

Approximate Healing Time for Tattoos: Two to Four (2–4) weeks for surface healing. Full healing can take up to 3 months.

Supplies Needed: Mild fragrance-free antibacterial liquid soap, thin ointment or tattoo aftercare balm (artist suggested, e.g. Aquaphor or similar), fragrance-free mild skin lotion.

Aftercare Instructions

Your new tattoo will typically be bandaged or covered with a protective film (such as second-skin/Saniderm) for a period recommended by your artist. Wash your hands thoroughly before removing the covering. Carefully remove the bandage or film. Gently wash the entire tattoo with a mild, fragrance-free antibacterial liquid soap and lukewarm (not hot) water using clean hands only—do not scrub or use washcloths. Pat dry with a clean paper towel or let air dry for a few minutes.

Apply a very thin layer of the recommended ointment or aftercare balm. You may need to gently wipe excess off if applied too thick. Apply thin layers 2–3 times daily for the first several days. After approximately 3–5 days (or when weeping has stopped), you may switch to a non-scented, fragrance-free mild skin lotion or tattoo balm. Continue washing gently 2 times daily and moisturizing lightly until healed. When showering, wash the tattoo with mild soap and do not allow the water stream to beat directly on it for long periods. Pat dry when you are out of the shower.

- Do not re-bandage your tattoo after the initial covering is removed (unless your artist specifically instructed you to use second-skin for a longer period). Allow it to breathe.
- Avoid direct sunlight and tanning beds on your fresh tattoo for at least 2–4 weeks. Once healed, always use broad-spectrum sunscreen to protect the ink long-term.
- Do not submerge your tattoo in baths, pools, hot tubs, lakes, oceans, or saunas for at least 2 weeks (longer is better). You may shower.
- Your tattoo will flake, itch, and peel. Do not pick, scratch, or peel at it. This can remove ink and cause scarring or the need for premature touch-ups. Gently pat if it itches.
- A thin layer of mild lotion or balm will help keep flaking to a minimum. Do not over-apply—skin should look lightly moisturized, not greasy.
- Wear loose, clean clothing over the area. Avoid tight clothing and excessive friction or sweating when possible during the first 1–2 weeks.

Individuals may be able to donate blood within the standard deferral period if the individual presents a copy of his/her body art facility's client record to the blood donor facility, based on local blood donor policy.

If you have any questions or concerns about your tattoo, contact your artist at Screaming Needle Tattoo & Piercing Co. In addition, you should seek medical attention if the tattoo site becomes infected or extremely painful, or if you develop a fever shortly after being tattooed.

Screaming Needle Tattoo & Piercing Company

Artist: _____

Touch up days: SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

652 A 28th Street Wyoming, MI 49509 (616) 551-2674	1823 Plainfield Ave Grand Rapids, MI 49505 (616) 361-2900	2056 Lake Michigan Dr Grand Rapids, MI 49504 (616) 608-5969	4629 Lake Michigan Dr Allendale, MI 49401 (616) 892-8288

Disclosure Statement / Notice for Filing Complaints

Public Act 375 (and related rules) requires that individuals shall not tattoo, brand, or perform body piercing on another individual unless the procedure occurs at a body art facility licensed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Body art facilities must comply with applicable requirements for safe and sanitary body art administration. As with any invasive procedure, body art may involve possible health risks, including but not limited to transmission of bloodborne diseases (such as HIV and viral hepatitis), skin disorders, infections, and allergic reactions. Persons with certain conditions (including but not limited to diabetes, hemophilia, or epilepsy) may be at higher risk for complications and should consult a physician before undergoing a body art procedure. If you wish to file a complaint against a body art facility related to compliance with state requirements or have concerns about potential health risks, please visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services body art resources online or contact your local health department.

These guidelines reflect current best practices for tattoo aftercare. Individual results vary. Always follow any specific instructions given by your artist. When in doubt, contact your artist or a healthcare professional.