

Aftercare

For all my tattoos (other than pure blackwork,) I use Saniderm. Other names for it are Tegaderm or Second Skin. It's a thin, translucent, sticker-like bandage, which keeps your fresh tattoo sealed from the outside world, so you can go about your normal daily business. Underneath the bandage, the ink/blood/plasma pools and your wound does the better part of it's wet healing while enhancing the ink/ detail retention of your tattoo.

The Saniderm can be left on for a maximum 7 days, but must stay on for a minimum 24 hours. If your tattoo leaks, or the bandage peels exposing your tattoo, you can take off the bandage and follow the instructions below. Otherwise, clients can take it off at the 4-5 day mark, since it's pretty well ready by then.

Always take the Saniderm off in the shower. Use warm water and a bit of unscented soap at the edge of the bandage to get the sticky side off. Always wash it with clean hands and unscented soap. If you have dry skin, you can moisturize it right out of the shower, while you're still wet. Use unscented, gentle moisturizer like Aquaphor, Curel, Cerave etc. Let your tattoo air dry before putting on clean clothes. If you must pat dry, make sure your towel is clean, or use a disposable paper towel.

If you have oily skin, you may wait a day or two to start moisturizing it, depending on the amount of blackwork in your tattoo. Waiting a day or two is called a 'dry heal,' and allows your skin to retain the ink better. Again, I only recommend this for oily or combination skin. Don't over saturate your tattoo with lotion, a light layer twice a day should do. If your tattoo seems to be excessively scaly or itchy, you may add more moisturizer.

Do not pick at, or itch your tattoo! I like to slap mine to satisfy the urge.

Do not take any baths, hot tubs, or saunas for two weeks. Do not exercise excessively while the bandage is still on. Keep your healing tattoo out of the sun. After two weeks, your tattoo will be healed and you can enter pools of water again. Ideally, you will put sunscreen on your healed tattoo every time it is exposed to sun, for the rest of your life. Sun damage = skin damage = tattoo damage. Long sleeve shirts and pants help with this.

If you have any more questions beyond this, please ask me directly! And remember, touch ups are free, so let me know if you believe you may need one after your tat is healed!