## WHITE PINE

## **Aftercare Instructions**

- > Keep your tattoo **clean**, dry and out of harm's way.
- > Always wash your hands before cleaning your tattoo, and make sure your garments are clean and loose-fitting.
- ➤ Ensure you wash your bed sheets and linen, tons of bacteria can accumulate and sit against your tattoo.

The first three days of an open wound can be when the bacteria can settle and grow, and during the peeling phase, it will start to show. As soon as you remove your soaker pad bandage, wash your tattoo with fragrance free soap, dove is best because it's neutral pH. Other brands can dry out your tattoo which is not necessary. **Do not air-dry**, always pat your tattoo dry with a clean paper towel. Continue to wash your tattoo once or twice a day.

The best moisturizers are usually cream based, and are best used when your tattoo is starting to feel dry, tight and itchy. If your tattoo is itchy, do not scratch or slap. Apply moisturizer around day 3-5, it will enter the peeling, flaking proliferative phase. Moisturizer will help restore water-loss and rebalance moisture and aid with healing. Try to avoid over-applying, and avoid any oil or petrolatum based. We suggest *Lubriderm* or *Curel Unscented*. It's best to have these at home ready to go when needed.

**Do not** pick or scratch at your healing tattoo. This can lead to loss of pigment, and infection as the skin will have to start repairing itself over and over.

**Do not** expose your healing or brand new tattoo to sunlight or tanning beds. UV exposure is little micro-bursts of laser, and this will eventually fade your tattoo and make it not look so great anymore. Ink stays liquid under your skin and can also shift around. So ensure you keep it looking good with sunscreen.

Find your favorite SPF and use it forever. Carry one with you in the summer and reapply often.

If you have opted for a second skin (clear and waterproof bandage),

It can stay on for several days, a week being the medium. Once it's removed, you can proceed to follow the aftercare above. If your bandage has any openings or perforations, remove your bandage slowly in the shower and wash with your approved tattoo soap of choice.

If in the rare occasion you suspect you've gotten an infection, please reach out to us to navigate you in terms of if what you're seeing is normal, or contacting your healthcare provider should be your next step. We cannot provide medical advice for legal reasons, but contacting us before, during or after is encouraged to ensure you feel taken care of.