



Aftercare for Healed Work and Touch-ups

Draft. Not yet approved by the studio's qualified practitioner. Do not issue to clients.

Once your tattoo or piercing has healed, a little long-term care keeps it looking its best. This guide also explains touch-ups.

Healed tattoos

- Keep skin moisturised. Healthy, hydrated skin shows tattoos best.
- Use sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher with a 4 or 5 star UVA rating on a healed tattoo. Sun is the biggest cause of fading.
- Avoid sunbeds.
- Tattoos soften and change as your body does. Weight change, pregnancy, sun and ageing all affect how they look.
- Check your skin regularly, including tattooed skin. Tattoo ink can make it harder to spot changes in a mole or patch. See your GP if you notice a change.

Touch-ups

- A touch-up is a small correction once your tattoo has fully healed. It is normal for some areas to heal lighter, patchy or softer than expected.
- Please wait until your tattoo has fully healed, which is usually at least four to eight weeks, before asking for one. Send us a healed photo first so your artist can see what is needed.
- Touch-ups are booked like any other appointment. Tell us if the need for a touch-up came from your tattoo not healing as it should, and we will look at it with you.
- Large changes or reworking are a new piece of work and are priced as one.

Healed piercings

- A healed piercing can still close up, sometimes within hours or days. If you take jewellery out for a long period, it may close.
- Have a piercer change or fit jewellery for you if it is a recent or cartilage piercing, or if you are unsure.
- Keep jewellery clean with mild soap and water in the shower, rinse well and pat dry.
- Check threaded ends regularly and keep them tight.
- A healed piercing can become irritated or infected at any time, for example after a knock or a change of jewellery. The signs are the same as for a new piercing.

Important: Seek medical advice from your GP or NHS 111 for spreading redness, increasing swelling, heat, worsening pain, pus, red streaks, a fever or feeling unwell, at any time. Call 999 if you feel seriously ill.



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Laser and removal

If you are thinking about laser removal or lightening, speak to a specialist laser clinic. We can advise on how this may affect a cover-up, but we do not offer removal.

Practitioner to confirm: the studio's touch-up policy (whether there is a free window after healing, and for how long), the earliest point at which a touch-up is booked, whether the studio offers jewellery changes by appointment, and that the studio does not offer laser removal.

Questions? Email thedesk@rebelliousink.tattoo. For anything medical, contact NHS 111 or your GP. In an emergency, call 999.