



Allergies and Patch Tests

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

Most people heal without any reaction. A few people are sensitive to tattoo pigments, jewellery metals or the products used around a procedure. This guide explains what to tell us and when we may offer a patch test.

What to tell us before you book

- Any previous reaction to a tattoo or a piercing, including itching, a raised rash or blisters that lasted.
- Allergies to metals, especially nickel. If cheap jewellery makes your skin red or itchy, tell us.
- Allergies to latex, adhesives, plasters, antiseptics, numbing products or aftercare products.
- Eczema, dermatitis, psoriasis or very sensitive skin, especially at the site.
- Any allergy that has needed medical treatment.

Tattoo pigments

- Some pigments, particularly some reds and other colours, are more likely to cause a reaction in some people. A reaction can appear weeks, months or even years later.
- A reaction can show as itching, a raised or bumpy rash, flaking or swelling in the tattoo, often in one colour.
- If this happens, see your GP, and tell us.

Piercing jewellery

- We use implant-grade titanium or another suitable material, and we can offer alternatives if you are sensitive.
- Nickel allergy is common. Tell us before you choose jewellery.

Patch tests

- A patch test puts a tiny amount of a product on the skin, to see if it causes a reaction.
- Patch tests cannot always predict how your skin will react to ink placed under the skin. They are not a guarantee.
- We may offer a patch test for a product such as an adhesive or a stencil product if you tell us you are sensitive. A test for pigment may be offered at your artist's discretion. Please ask when you book, because a test needs time before your appointment.
- If you have a significant allergy, your GP or a pharmacist can advise on testing.

Important: Call 999 if you have swelling of the lips, tongue or throat, difficulty breathing or feel faint after any procedure. For a rash or itching that does not settle, contact your GP or NHS 111.



INFORMATION

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Version 1

Issued 22/10/2026

Practitioner to confirm: whether the studio offers patch tests, for which products, how far in advance, and whether the studio charges for them. Also confirm the studio's wording on pigment reactions and any insurer conditions about patch testing.

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