

A fresh tattoo is a controlled wound. Proper aftercare supports skin regeneration, reduces risk of infection, and helps retain ink vibrancy.

**PROTECTIVE BANDAGE (DermShield)** -a medical-grade, breathable barrier film designed to protect healing skin.

→ **What does it do?:**

- ◆ Shields your tattoo from bacteria, friction, and contaminants.
- ◆ Allows oxygen in (essential for healing) and moisture vapor out (prevents excess fluid buildup).
- ◆ Creates a moist healing environment, which speeds up skin cell regeneration and improves ink retention.

→ Keep on for **3–5 days** (up to 7 days if it remains sealed and comfortable).

→ It's normal to see fluid buildup (plasma, ink, lymph) underneath—this protects the tattoo in the early healing stage.

→ **Remove early if:**

- ◆ It lifts or peels, exposing part of the tattoo; You see trapped sweat or excessive moisture (outside of normal plasma/ink buildup.); You develop a rash or skin irritation. (Most common in high-friction, high-motion areas.)

**REMOVING THE BANDAGE**

→ Remove gently under lukewarm running water with clean hands.

→ Start at an edge and **peel slowly towards the center**, keeping it close to the skin surface. Do not rip or pull upward. Think: like a command strip comes off.

→ Wash the tattoo using **fragrance-free, antibacterial soap**. (e.g. Dr. Bronner's Unscented Pure-Castile Soap)

→ Do **not scrub**—just a gentle cleanse. **Pat dry** with a clean paper towel or allow to air dry. Avoid bath towels or anything used elsewhere on the body—these can harbor bacteria.

→ After drying, apply a thin layer of **fragrance-free** lotion (e.g., Cocoa butter, Shea butter, Lubiderm, Goldbond, etc.)

- ◆ Moisturize twice daily for at least 2 weeks after removing the bandage.

**WHAT TO EXPECT POST-REMOVAL**

→ Some itching, peeling, and flaking is part of the healing process. **Do not scratch.** 'Lil taps or ice packs will help.

→ The tattoo may look dull during healing—this is normal.

→ Swelling: if excessive/bothersome, apply a wrapped ice pack for 10–15 min, as needed, in the first 48 hours.

→ If skin feels tight or overly dry under the bandage, apply a minimal amount of **fragrance-free** lotion over the bandage to prevent cracking. Use sparingly. Full healing can take *4–8 weeks*.

**AVOID FOR 2 WEEKS**

→ **Swimming or soaking** in tubs, hot springs, pools, lakes, or saunas. **Direct sunlight** on the tattoo. **Heavy sweating or excessive rubbing** of the area.

A fresh tattoo is a controlled wound. Proper aftercare supports skin regeneration, reduces risk of infection, and helps retain ink vibrancy.

**PROTECTIVE BANDAGE (DermShield)** -a medical-grade, breathable barrier film designed to protect healing skin.

→ **What does it do?:**

- ◆ Shields your tattoo from bacteria, friction, and contaminants.
- ◆ Allows oxygen in (essential for healing) and moisture vapor out (prevents excess fluid buildup).
- ◆ Creates a moist healing environment, which speeds up skin cell regeneration and improves ink retention.

→ Keep on for **3–5 days** (up to 7 days if it remains sealed and comfortable).

→ It's normal to see fluid buildup (plasma, ink, lymph) underneath—this protects the tattoo in the early healing stage.

→ **Remove early if:**

- ◆ It lifts or peels, exposing part of the tattoo; You see trapped sweat or excessive moisture (outside of normal plasma/ink buildup.); You develop a rash or skin irritation. (Most common in high-friction, high-motion areas.)

**REMOVING THE BANDAGE**

→ Remove gently under lukewarm running water with clean hands.

→ Start at an edge and **peel slowly towards the center**, keeping it close to the skin surface. Do not rip or pull upward. Think: like a command strip comes off.

→ Wash the tattoo using **fragrance-free, antibacterial soap**. (e.g. Dr. Bronner's Unscented Pure-Castile Soap)

→ Do **not scrub**—just a gentle cleanse. **Pat dry** with a clean paper towel or allow to air dry. Avoid bath towels or anything used elsewhere on the body—these can harbor bacteria.

→ After drying, apply a thin layer of **fragrance-free** lotion (e.g., Cocoa butter, Shea butter, Lubiderm, Goldbond, etc.)

- ◆ Moisturize twice daily for at least 2 weeks after removing the bandage.

**WHAT TO EXPECT POST-REMOVAL**

→ Some itching, peeling, and flaking is part of the healing process. **Do not scratch.** 'Lil taps or ice packs will help.

→ The tattoo may look dull during healing—this is normal.

→ Swelling: if excessive/bothersome, apply a wrapped ice pack for 10–15 min, as needed, in the first 48 hours.

→ If skin feels tight or overly dry under the bandage, apply a minimal amount of **fragrance-free** lotion over the bandage to prevent cracking. Use sparingly. Full healing can take *4–8 weeks*.

**AVOID FOR 2 WEEKS**

→ **Swimming or soaking** in tubs, hot springs, pools, lakes, or saunas. **Direct sunlight** on the tattoo. **Heavy sweating or excessive rubbing** of the area.