

## **TATTOO AFTERCARE**

- Always follow the instructions given to you by your tattoo artist. Proper aftercare is one of the most important aspects of the tattoo process and it is UP TO YOU to take care of it.
- The bandage is to protect your fresh tattoo from exposure to germs and bacteria. It should remain on your tattoo for at least 12 hours.
- After removing the bandage wash the tattoo at least 3 times a day with luke warm water and a liquid anti-bacterial hand soap like Dial or Softsoap. NEVER use a washrag, sponge, loofah or anything else other than your clean hands to wash the tattoo. Pat dry with something clean and allow to air dry for an additional 5-10 minutes.
- Apply a small amount of ointment on the tattoo after each washing for the first few days. Rub into skin and dab off any excess with a paper towel. YOU DO NOT WANT A SHINY LAYER OF OINTMENT ON YOUR TATTOO! Once peeling begins stop using the ointment and switch to a non-scented hand lotion such as Lubriderm. Continue to wash and moisturize your tattoo until fully healed.
- DO NOT OVER EXPOSE your tattoo to sunlight or water for 2-3 weeks. No baths, hot tubs, rivers, lakes, creeks, ponds, swimming pools or saunas. Keep showers brief and do not allow the direct force of the water to soak your tattoo. Avoid tanning beds or direct sunlight. SPF 40 or higher sunblock can be used once your tattoo is healed to help protect your colors from fading.
- DO NOT pick or peel your healing tattoo. If any scabbing occurs, it is VERY important that they fall off naturally.