*Black Koi Studio*

*Tattoo Aftercare*

\*\*\*Please be sure to read and follow aftercare instructions carefully and if you are unsure of ANYTHING, just ask!! I am always happy to answer any questions!

**CLEANING**

 *Directly after tattoo- leave the bandage on for 2-3 hours to help keep foreign bacteria dirt out, help soak up any blood/plasma from the fresh tattoo, and to keep it safe between the studio and home!*

1. Wash your hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap (such as dial) and water right before doing anything with your new tattoo. This will prevent any foreign dirt or bacteria from getting into your tattoo right off the bat.
2. *2-3 HOURS AFTER THE TATTOO*, remove the bandage. Throw it away and do not re-bandage or cover the tattoo with anything else during the healing process. If you are having trouble removing the bandage from it sticking, just run water over the whole thing and lightly and slowly pull it away. Do not ‘bandaid rip’ the bandage away from the tattoo.
3. Wash/clean the tattoo with antibacterial soap and water. Using only your hands and cool water, carefully and lightly rub and wash away the ointment, blood/plasma, and excess ink from the surface of the tattoo. After the soapy water cleaning, rinse with cool water.
4. Pat the tattoo dry with paper towel. Stay away from towels as sometimes they can leave fuzzies on the skin.
5. Before applying any ointment, LET THE TATTOO AIR DRY FOR 3-5 minutes. This is crucial in that this will allow the tattoo to weep small bits of plasma out. After the 3-5 minutes, lightly dab up the weeping tattoo with a damp paper towel and pat dry with another piece of paper towel.

**OINTMENT AFTERCARE (DAYS 1-4)**

1. After the cleaning steps, apply a thin coat of the ointment of your choosing (any antibacterial: Aquafor, Bacitracin, A&D, Redemption, organic alternatives…) to the tattoo. Very gently rub into tattoo and dab off any excess with a clean paper towel. The tattoo should not look overly wet/shiny. Doing this in thin layers provides enough ointment to heal and stay moisturized, but not so much that it doesn’t allow your skin to breathe. Also, too much ointment can plug pores which will cause pimples and extra gunk on your tattoo.
2. Repeat the CLEANING and OINTMENT process about 3-4 times a day (or about every 4 hours).
	1. Just don’t forget, Less Ointment, More Times a Day

**LOTION AFTERCARE (DAYS 4-14)**

1. After the cleaning steps, you may now switch to an unscented lotion (Lubriderm, Jergens, Eucerin…).
2. Apply lotion in the same fashion as the ointment but 6-8 times a day (about every 2 hours). You may apply more often if your tattoo feels dry.
3. Repeat the CLEANING and LOTION process until your tattoo is fully healed.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

* Tattoos will peel and flake (like sunburn) during the whole healing process. THIS IS NORMAL. DO NOT PICK OR SCRATCH at these flakes. Some flakes will fall off during cleanings. When you shower, avoid direct water stream and do not scrub with a loofa, sponge or anything abrasive. Only gently rub with hands.
* Wear loose fitting clothing to avoid unnecessary rubbing and allow the tattoo to breathe.
* DO NOT SWIM, SOAK, OR STAY OUT IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT during the healing process. This is terrible for your new tattoo and will cause healing issues/infections as well as possibly ruining the art on your skin. Don’t forget, a tattoo is a large open wound and area of broken skin.
* DO NOT LET OTHER PEOPLE TOUCH IT AND ONLY YOUR OWN AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN CLEANED WITH ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP AND WATER FIRST.
* When dealing with foot tattoos, you may turn your sock inside out to prevent fuzzies from sticking to your tattoo.
* TOUCHUPS: A touchup is needed for a small amount of the tattoo that is light or missing due to the healing process. No worries, as this will sometimes happen, and a quick fix is necessary. I guarantee all of my work and will fix them at no charge as long as the touchup is done within 6 months. Please do not wait any longer than this sort of touchup. As tattoos age, they will fade slightly and it is hard to match a small spot with fresh ink and may not look the same without going over the rest of the whole tattoo. (At that point, I may charge a small fee). Also be aware, not all tattoos require touchups!

\*\*Again, if you have any questions or concerns about the healing process of your new tattoo, please do not hesitate to ask!! I am always happy to answer!!

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