*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!

**1st Bandage**

1. Upon leaving the studio, I will have helped you apply your first bandage! This bandage will stay on for the first 8-24 hours after getting your tattoo! If any of the edges start to peel up, simply squish them back down. The bandage is made to be breathable and waterproof, so do not worry about getting it wet! However, just do not let the bandage soak for an extended amount of time, as it will start to dissolve the adhesive! It was made to be more comfortable and flexible than the original, thick bandage and protects you from any sorts of outside dirt and bacteria, daily activities, and friction from clothing.
2. As soon as the 8-24 hours are up, check the tattoo. If it still looks good (no plasma/blood pockets pooling underneath the bandage), you can still keep it on an extra day and extend the life of the bandage. If it looks pretty gunky, you can begin to remove it!

**Removal and Cleaning**

1. Slowly begin to peel up a side of the bandage. Once you get a decent grip, begin to slowly stretch the bandage horizontally across the skin (like you would remove a 3M strip from the wall). Do your best not to pull it directly upwards like a regular bandage. If you must, go very slow. This process takes time- if there is a scab or skin stuck to the adhesive, you do not want to take it off on accident by pulling the bandage off too fast. If you are still having trouble, take a wet towel and pat it on the skin/adhesive as you pull the bandage off. If you can you can also run water over the whole bandage or take it off in the shower as well!
2. Clean the tattoo as you would do the original aftercare. Take antibacterial soap and water and gently massage away any blood or plasma on top of the tattoo. It is normal to have a little bit of ink on the bandage or on top of the skin that comes off while cleaning. After the soapy water, rinse well and pat dry with a paper towel. Wait about 5-10 minutes for any excess blood or plasma to rise to the surface. If any does, you can dab that off again (repeat again if needed) and wait for your tattoo to dry completely (another 2-3 minutes). When the surface of your tattoo is dry, you are ready to apply the 2nd bandage! Do NOT apply any ointment or lotion.

**2nd Bandage**

1. Apply the 2nd bandage by removing the paper side with the adhesive. Allow about an inch border of bandage around the outside of the tattoo. Work the bandage on by either starting at one end and moving to the other, or in the middle and outwards. This will prevent air bubbles from being stuck between your skin and the bandage. (Sometimes they are inevitable and that is ok- just do your best). When the bandage is where you want it, you can trim it up at this point. (I like to leave the top layer on before I trim because it doesn’t fight the scissors as bad this way). Lastly, when the bandage is trimmed, you can remove the last layer of top plastic. Be sure to do a final edge pat to keep the edges stuck down.
2. The 2nd bandage stays on somewhere between 3 -5 days. You can be the judge of this! If your tattoo looks very gunky/leaky underneath before the full 5 days, definitely take it off before then!

**End of Bandage**

1. When you are ready to take the 2nd bandage off, repeat the **Removal and Cleaning** instructions. From this point, instead of applying another bandage, you will put very thin layers of A&D/Aquafor/Dr Healgood/Redemption ointment or lotion on the tattoo! Usually this is only done a few times a day for the first 1-2 days after the 2nd bandage is removed, and then at your discretion after that. From this point, your tattoo should be completely healed! There should be little to no peeling/itching and the heal time should be way less than traditional healing ☺

\*Complications from the bandage are rare. Occasionally, the adhesive is irritating to the fresh tattoo and will cause redness and swelling ALL THE WAY TO THE EDGE OF THE BANDGAGE , not just around the tattoo. If this does happen to you, you will notice within the first day of having the bandage. Please message me via email at blackkoistudio@gmail.com and I will forward you the traditional healing instructions and from this point, do not apply the 2nd bandage and follow the new instructions sent to you instead!

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THANK YOU ☺