

VAN BREE Tattoo Aftercare

Congrats! You're awesome. Now it's time to take care of your tattoo. Here are a few reminders for you old pros and guidelines for first-timers:

FIRST DAY(S) WITH SANIDERM BANDAGE:

- FYI: Saniderm is a flexible, breathable, waterproof bandage that has been designed for tattoo aftercare purposes
- Your Saniderm bandage should stay on overnight and the following day if possible, for up to **two to four nights**, depending on how much the tattoo bleeds. It's normal for blood and fluids to collect under the bandage. If the bandage begins to leak or peels so that the tattoo becomes exposed, please remove the bandage at your earliest convenience. If the bandage is removed on the first night, the tattoo may stick to or stain bed sheets. Maintain clean bedding throughout the healing process (3-4 weeks)
- If you experience unusual redness, swelling or blistering under or around the bandage, you may be having a reaction to the adhesive on the bandage. Remove it immediately and follow the rest of the tattoo care instructions as normal
- When you remove the bandage, wash your hands, then carefully peel off the Saniderm in a slow, steady motion. Do not rip it off. It is normal for this to hurt a little, your skin is still sensitive after the tattoo. Dispose of the bandage and wash your hands again. Then make a lather in your hand with soap and warm water. Gently clean the tattoo using a circular motion, until all ink, blood, and lymphatic fluid are removed. Rinse the tattoo and wash once again, gently, until the skin is clean. Pat the tattoo dry with paper towel. You may want to take your Saniderm off in the shower

AFTER THE REMOVING THE BANDAGE:

- Keep the tattooed area clean and dry. Gently clean with unscented soap at least once daily. **Only use CLEAN HANDS to wash your tattoo.** NO washcloths, bath towels, bath sponges or loofahs on a fresh tattoo.
- Fresh tattoos sometimes "weep" during the first couple of days, meaning that plasma and ink form a thin moist coating on the skin. This can be DABBED with a clean paper towel. Press the paper towel to the skin and remove. Do not wipe the tattoo or be rough with it. Do not panic when you see the

colors of the tattoo on the paper towel, or on your hands as you clean it. This is simply excess ink being sloughed from the surface or the skin

- Wear loose, preferably cotton clothing over the fresh tattoo if necessary. A bra strap, tight waistband, sweaty gym shoe or itchy cotton sweater can potentially create healing problems. Consult your tattoo artist for advice on what clothing to wear/avoid.
- After a few days, the tattoo will begin to form flaky scabs that will fall off on their own. **DO NOT PICK OR SCRATCH YOUR TATTOO.** At this point you may begin to use the Tattoo Goo provided to you or a gentle, unscented lotion 1-2 times a day. Apply a thin layer and rub it in, then dab any excess off with a clean paper towel. Over time the scabs will slough off naturally. Once again, they will be the color of the tattoo. It normally takes at least 3-4 weeks for the initial healing process to complete

AVOID:

- Thick petroleum products (such as Vaseline jelly) during the healing process. Generally antibiotic ointments such as Polysporin will not be needed and are best to avoid
- Picking, scratching, peeling, rubbing or otherwise irritating your tattoo
- Strenuous activity or heavy sweating that will affect the area tattooed within the first 10 days of receiving the tattoo
- Baths, swimming, hot tubs, saunas or soaking the tattoo for 2 weeks. Quick showers are ok
- Over-applying Tattoo Goo or an approved, unscented moisturizer
- Exposure to the sun for 3-4 weeks. After that, use sunblock to help prevent premature fading
- Wearing abrasive clothing, jewelry, or shoes that will rub up against the tattoo

If you do not take care of your tattoo, it may become infected or damaged. Signs of infections are abnormal swelling and redness around the outside of the tattoo, increased pain or tenderness, fever, or thin red lines extending from the wound. It may ooze, pus, or bleed abnormally. If you think your tattoo is infected, seek medical attention immediately.

If you have any doubts or questions, please contact your artist at Van Bree Tattoo! Our team is more than happy to help you with any concern you might have, we want our art to live on with you as beautifully as possible!

TOUCH-UPS:

If for whatever reason you aren't completely happy with how your tattoo has healed, we offer one free touch-up session within **six months** after the tattoo is completed. Please wait at least a month for the tattoo to heal before you contact us.

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