

## **REALISTIC TATTOO'S RECOMMENDED AFTERCARE PROGRAM:**

The average tattoo takes one to three weeks to heal. Although, for one to one and a half months, we do not recommend the following activities:

- ◆ Swimming.
- ◆ Hot tubs.
- ◆ Exposure to excessive steam.
- ◆ Contact with ocean water (contamination).
- ◆ Submerging/soaking under water (baths) - Showers are great (encouraged in fact); but, keep direct shower spray off the new tattoo.
- ◆ Do not shave the newly tattooed area.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT**

Remove bandages one to two hours after completion.

If redness or swelling occurs; use ice packs.

For the first 24 hours, two to three times a day with clean hands, apply a THIN layer of antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin or Bacitracin. After the initial 24 hour period, switch to a good, fragrance free lotion such as Lubriderm, Jergens, or Eucerin. Apply a THIN layer and work in well - five to six times a day - for the entire healing process. DO NOT over lubricate your tattoo; however, don't let it dry out.

Should any seepage occur, gently dab off excess with a clean paper towel.

If a rash occurs (bumps on or around the tattoo, persistent redness, or any allergic reaction), discontinue using the antibiotics or lotions and call REALISTIC TATTOO for suggestions and product alternatives.

## **SCABBING AND PEELING**

On the fourth to fifth day, your new tattoo will begin to itch, flake, and peel. It is very important not pick or scratch at it because this might harm your artwork.

You may notice some peeling and possibly a little scabbing. You will also notice that your tattoo will start to itch - similar to sunburn when it begins to heal. A little scabbing can be normal; and there is no need to panic. The advice here is don't scratch and don't pick! If the skin itches; lightly slap it. If it's peeling; put lotion on it. If it's scabbing; leave it alone. Scabs will fall off as the skin heals. This process takes one to three weeks. Your tattoo is almost finished ~ and now is not the time to spoil it!

## **WASHING**

Wash gently with cool or lukewarm water using a mild antibacterial soap. Pat dry with a soft, clean towel - **DON'T RUB!**

## **PROTECTION FROM THE SUN**

Exposing any brilliant or colorful tattoo directly to sunlight can quickly fade and damage it. After your new tattoo has healed, you will want to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet rays. REALISTIC TATTOO recommends wearing lightweight or adequate clothing for protection from fading and damage. It is very acceptable to use sun screen (with 30SPF sunblock); it just not recommend it during the healing process. Your tattoo is a source of great pride and these suggestions will keep it vibrant over many years.

Consult your Tattoo Artist for any additional instructions or questions.

### **REALISTIC TATTOO**

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