

GRAY STATE TATTOO

TATTOO AFTERCARE

MARYSVILLE, WA | GRAYSTATETATTOO.COM

HEAL IT RIGHT

FRESH TATTOO = HEALING SKIN.

Keep it clean, lightly moisturized, and leave it alone. Your future tattoo will thank you.

1 SECOND SKIN

Leave the initial bandage on for the amount of time your artist recommends, usually **3-5 days**, unless it leaks, the seal breaks, or you develop significant irritation.

To remove: Wash your hands. Remove slowly under warm running water and pull the film back across the skin, not straight upward. Wash gently with warm water and mild fragrance-free liquid soap. Pat dry with a clean paper towel and let it air dry.

Do not reapply second skin unless your artist specifically tells you to.

2 TRADITIONAL BANDAGE

Remove the bandage according to your artist's instructions, typically within a few hours. Wash the tattoo gently with clean hands, warm water, and mild fragrance-free soap. Pat dry with a clean paper towel and allow it to breathe.

Do not put the original bandage back on.

Some plasma, ink, mild redness, or tenderness during the early stage of healing can be normal.

3 MOISTURIZE, DON'T MARINATE

Once the tattoo feels dry or tight, apply a **very thin layer** of fragrance-free tattoo aftercare or unscented lotion. The tattoo should not stay greasy, shiny, or wet.

Too much product can irritate skin and slow healing. More is not better. Humans keep proving this with skincare.

4 WHAT'S NORMAL

Mild redness, tenderness, slight swelling, itching, flaking, peeling, dryness, clear or lightly colored plasma, and small scabs can occur during normal healing.

Your tattoo may temporarily look dull, cloudy, or uneven while new skin forms.

5 FOR ABOUT 2 WEEKS

DO NOT:

- Pick, scratch, or peel it.
- Soak in baths, pools, hot tubs, lakes, rivers, or the ocean.
- Use tanning beds or prolonged direct sun.
- Let tight or dirty clothing repeatedly rub it.
- Let pets lick or rub against it.
- Use peroxide, rubbing alcohol, heavily fragranced products, or thick petroleum-based products unless instructed.

Showers are fine. Soaking is not.

6 SUN + HEALING TIME

Once fully healed, use **SPF 30 or higher** whenever the tattoo will be exposed to sunlight. UV exposure is one of the fastest ways to fade a tattoo.

Most tattoos take roughly **2-4 weeks** for the surface to heal, although deeper layers continue healing afterward. Healing varies by placement, size, skin, health, and aftercare.

! WHEN TO GET MEDICAL HELP

Seek medical attention if redness, swelling, warmth, or pain is getting significantly worse instead of improving; if you develop thick yellow/green drainage, red streaking, fever, chills, severe swelling, or signs of a serious allergic reaction. For healing questions, contact Gray State Tattoo and

TOUCH-UPS

Wait until the tattoo is fully healed before deciding whether it needs a touch-up. Eligibility and pricing vary by tattoo, placement, healing, and artist. Damage from picking, scratching, soaking, sun, or improper aftercare may not qualify for a complimentary touch-up.