



TATTOO RISK INFORMATION

Risks and what to look out for when getting a tattoo

BEFORE GETTING A TATTOO

Getting a tattoo involves risks. Make sure you are well rested and have eaten enough. Inform your tattoo artist of any medication you take, skin problems or damage, skin recently exposed to plastic surgery or radiotherapy, allergies, epilepsy, hypersensitivity reactions, pregnancy or breastfeeding. These may impair healing and increase the risk of complications. Previously tattooed or laser-treated skin that has not yet healed may also increase the risk of complications.

Check at www.veiligtatoeerenenpiercen.nl that the studio where you wish to get a tattoo has a valid licence. This licence indicates that the studio works in accordance with the latest hygiene standard.

Never get a tattoo while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Do not have a tattoo placed on moles or areas of scar tissue resulting from the removal of skin cancer.

You should also avoid getting a tattoo, or only do so with a doctor's approval, if you have any of the following conditions:

- Haemophilia or another blood-clotting disorder; epilepsy or cardiovascular disease; certain allergies to metals, preservatives or other substances used in tattooing; diabetes; an autoimmune disorder; conditions involving a compromised immune system; sarcoidosis.

DURING TATTOOING

Make sure that your tattoo artist:

- Cleans and disinfects the skin.
- Uses a new disposable razor if the skin needs to be shaved.
- Uses needles and ink that are sterile, packaged and used only for you.
- Uses clean tissues to clean the skin during tattooing.
- Wears gloves while tattooing and changes them after touching anything other than their tattoo machine, tissues, sterile materials or your skin.

AFTER TATTOOING

Make sure that your tattoo artist:

- Cleans the tattoo with a mild soap or an approved skin disinfectant with an RVG number (Dutch medicines registration number).
- Pats the tattoo dry with clean tissues or clean gauze.
- Covers the tattoo with household plastic wrap, gauze, wound film or spray-on plaster, explains the method verbally and also gives you written aftercare instructions for the method used. Facial tattoos, including permanent make-up, do not need to be covered with these films, gauze dressings or sprays.
- Applies an aftercare ointment to the tattoo if necessary when household plastic wrap is used.

SIGNS OF NORMAL HEALING AND SIGNS OF INFECTION OR ALLERGIES

- You may notice wound fluid, sometimes a large amount, or excess ink coming from the tattoo. This is normal.
- You may see redness on and around the tattooed area. This is normal.
- You may notice mild swelling on and around the tattooed area. This is normal.
- You may develop a fever or chills during the first 12 hours after tattooing. This is normal. If this persists, it may be a sign of infection.
- If the tattoo continues to leak wound fluid for a prolonged period, or if yellowish, pus-like fluid comes from it, this may be a sign of infection.
- If the tattoo develops an unpleasant smell, this may be a sign of infection.
- Increasing painful redness, an increasing throbbing or burning sensation, difficulty moving the tattooed body part, or red streaks spreading across the skin may be signs of infection.

If you suspect an infection, always contact a doctor immediately. Always inform your tattoo artist as well. People with certain medical conditions should take extra care, as they have a higher risk of wound infection.

If you have an allergic reaction, stop using all tattoo care products immediately and contact a doctor. Also inform your tattoo artist of any allergic reaction, as the artist is advised to document it.