

**Laser Tattoo Removal/ Q Switch After Care**

Laser Tattoo Removal causes the ink particles to swell, explode and break down with the absorption of laser light. This can mean ink can explode out through the skin during treatment if the ink is very close to the surface. This is often seen as a tiny puff of smoke: do not inhale this smoke if possible as it will contain small ink particles. It is also possible for some spot bleeding to occur if the ink if very close to the surface of the skin. Usually only likely on non professionally inked tattoos.

**Side Effects**

* Short term discomfort – a stinging or sore sensation similar to wind burn
* Redness & swelling, usually mild but can be severe and last from one hour to two days.
* Blistering and bruising are possible and likely at some stage of your treatment
* Hyper -or Hypo- pigmentation may occur, although usually resolves within 12 months
* Scars and / or infection
* A change in skin texture or colour
* Residual ink
* Unintended hair loss around the area of treatment

Immediately after treatment the area is likely to be red & swollen, the tattoo may appear white in colour, but will return to a darker state shortly. The quality of the ink will affect the outcome, along with the age of the tattoo, age of the client and the professional application of the tattoo originally. Some dark inks are made by compound of other colours so in removing the tattoo darker colours may fade and leave a brown or orangey reside. If this occurs further sessions with a colour filter may be required. These sessions can be taken no less than 8 weeks apart as they may affect other surrounding tissue not just the ink. The side effects are likely to be more severe. The black filter uses different wavelengths so is best absorbed by the tattoo ink. Recommended time between sessions is 4-6 weeks as long as the skin is fully healed.

**Aftercare**

* Some scabbing is common after treatment and it is crucial not to pick this, blisters are fairly common and extreme care should the taken to avoid popping these as bacteria from your everyday environment may enter the skin through the popped blisters and cause an infection.
* Keep the area away from shampoo, soaps, irritants and wash only with cooled pre-boiled water, after which you can apply a thin layer of Aloe Vera gel to assist healing, this is available to purchase at the clinic.
* Only touch the area if necessary with clean hands. DO NOT scratch pick or pop scabbing or blisters, they will resolve by themselves and you will increase your chance of long term scarring should you ignore this.
* Keep the area loosely covered with freshly laundered clothing if entering any potentially contactable area that may house bacteria.
* Do not apply makeup over the area until both scabbing and blistering resolves
* Allow the area to breath, although it is sensible to cover the area if working or going out, wherever possible and sensible allow the air to circulate the area while at home, do not be tempted to keep bandaged and cover in lotion and this will slow your healing.
* Use an antibacterial cream such as savlon if you suspect the early stages of an infection (soreness or unusual redness or prolonged welling in and around the area) please contact us by sending a photo via email immediately and book in a FREE follow up appointment, if an infection does develop please consult your GP.
* You can choose to take over the counter pain relief should you feel it necessary- always follow your GP’s advice and read the label. You may also use numbing gel prior to treatment but you must source and apply this yourself before you attend and never apply to unhealed skin. An ice compress is available for your use at your appointment please ask if you would like to use this.

**It is imperative you follow this advice to avoid infection. Body TLC will not be responsible for side effects when this aftercare is not followed. Your consent form states that you have received and understood post treatment care recommendations. If you are in any doubt please speak to us, we will be more than happy to recap any or all advice again.**