

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Minimal
Aftercare Instructions for Piercings 8/19/2013

Approximate Healing Times:

Lip/Labret: Two to six (2-6) months

Nostril or eyebrow: Three to twelve (3-12) months Earlobe: Four to six (4-6) weeks

Ear cartilage: Three to twelve (3-12) months

Tongue: One to two (1-2) months

Genital: Varies from one to twelve (1-12) months

Other piercings: Up to six (6) months

Supplies Needed: Mild fragrance free and dye free soap. For lip/labret or tongue piercings, an alcohol free mouthwash or salt solution (mix 1/8 teaspoon of salt with 8 ounces of warm water) is also needed.

Aftercare Instructions: Wash your hands. Using warm water and a cotton swab, remove any matter that may have dried on the jewelry and around the openings of the piercing.

Next, pour the cleansing agent on the jewelry and piercing, lather it up. Leave the cleaning agent in contact with the piercing approximately one (1) minute. Finally rinse the agent off very thoroughly under running water. Any cleaning agent left on the skin or in the piercing can cause you problems.

For lip/labret or tongue piercings, you should rinse your mouth with alcohol free mouthwash or a salt solution for 30-60 seconds. Some mouthwashes may need to be diluted with distilled water. Continue the rinses at least four to six (4-6) times a day for six to eight (6-8) weeks.

Additional Considerations: Genital piercings usually heal without difficulty, but problems arise from not following the "Aftercare Instructions" or becoming too rough, too soon with the piercing. Always wash your hands before touching the new piercing. Every night, remove any crusty matter with cotton swabs and use a salt solution to soak the piercing for ten (10) minutes. Make no oral contact with your new piercing without an appropriate barrier for at least three (3) months. The use of gloves for touching, condoms for intercourse, and the appropriate barriers for oral sex are highly recommended.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the body art facility where your piercing was performed. In addition, you should seek medical attention if the piercing site becomes infected or painful, or if you develop a fever shortly after being pierced.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Minimal Aftercare Instructions for Tattoo
8/19/2013

Procedure Type: Tattoo

Approximate Healing Time: Two to four (2-4) weeks

Supplies Needed: Fragrance Free and Dye Free, mild skin lotion
Fragrance and Dye Free, Antibacterial Hand Soap
A&D Ointment or Aquaphor

Aftercare Instructions: Keep your new tattoo bandaged for approximately two (2) hours. Then carefully remove the bandage and wash the entire area with mild soap and cool water. Dry the area, and re-apply a mild skin lotion. Use only a very thin coating and continue to re-apply it two-four (2-4) times daily for at least three (3) days. Do not re-bandage the tattoo, as it could stick to the bandage and damage can occur.

Additional Considerations: Avoid sunburn, salt or chlorine water, or hot tubs until your tattoo is completely healed. In the event mild scabbing occurs, do not pick at or attempt to “wash off” the scab. Allow it to do so by itself. You may apply a mild skin lotion to keep “flaking” to a minimum.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the body art facility where your tattoo was performed. In addition, you should seek medical attention if the tattoo site becomes infected or painful, or if you develop a fever shortly after being tattooed.