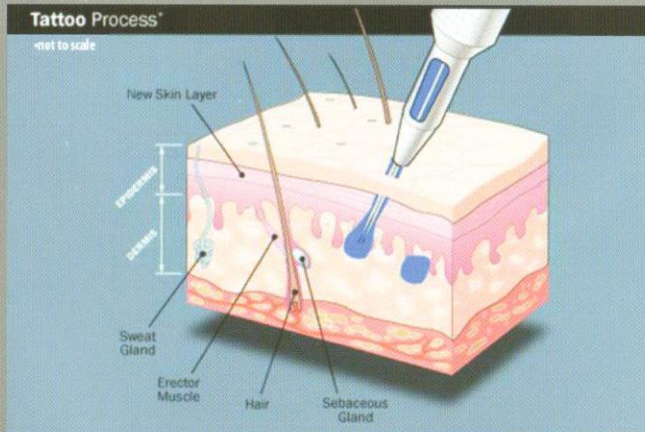


Wear Nothing – not even your ink !

What is tattoo removal?

Tattoo's are created by inserting a needle under the skin and injecting ink which is suspended in the dermis.

Tattoo removal by laser light is the breaking up of tattoo ink within the skin over a number of treatments where the tattoo fades after each treatment until the tattoo has been completely eliminated.



Types of Tattoos

Decorative Tattoos

These can be divided into professional and amateur. Professional tattoos are placed deeper into the dermis and have larger quantities of ink, they also have more variable composition of inks compared to amateur tattoos. For this reason professional tattoos are more difficult to remove and may also result in incomplete removal of all colours.

Cosmetic Tattoos

Cosmetic tattoos are also known as permanent make up. Cosmetic and reconstructive tattoos are typically placed to improve or create the appearance of normal anatomical structures. These tattoos may include thinning eyebrows, eyelashes, eyeliner, vermilion border or full lip colour, recreation of areola following mastectomy, or to camouflage scars

Traumatic Tattoo

Traumatic tattoo or the "injury tattoo", may result from implantation of small pieces of asphalt and other debris

from motor vehicle accidents, graphite from a pencil stab, as well as shrapnel, bullets, fireworks or their explosive fragments, that have become permanently imbedded under the skin

How does it work?

The laser sends energy into the dermis and breaks up the tattoo pigment into tiny pieces. These can move through the hypodermis to be eliminated by the lymphatic system.

- Pulses of light are emitted at nanosecond pulse duration
- The laser light is directed onto the tattoo where the light is absorbed by the tattoo ink. This causes a photo acoustic effect which results from the generation of shock waves following laser irradiation.
- Shock waves cause the vibrational damage to cellular structure (pigment) as the pigment is rapidly heated, steam is formed, resulting in dispersion of pigment (this is known as "frosting")

Elimination

These fragmented pigment particles are eliminated through the epidermis where skin cells and ink are taken through the vascular or lymphatic systems or removed by phagocyte cells (a cell, such as a white blood cell, that engulfs and absorbs waste material, harmful microorganisms, or other foreign bodies in the bloodstream and tissues).

How many treatments are necessary?

The number of treatments necessary depends on the individual being treated. It depends on how old the tattoo is, what type of ink was used and how deep it was placed into the dermis.

Only the top layer of pigment can be treated at any one time, so it also depends on how many layers of ink has been trapped under the skin to create the tattoo. Professional tattoos may require ten or more laser treatments, while self-applied tattoos may fade after four laser tattoo removal treatments.

How often do tattoo's need to be treated for effective removal?

Tattoo's can be treated once every four to eight weeks.

Do all colours of ink disappear equally as well?

No. Dark (blue/black) inks and red inks tend to have the highest response. Oranges and purple tattoos usually respond well. Green and yellow inks are the most difficult to remove, although additional treatments can produce further fading. White tattoos reflect laser light and therefore do not respond to laser treatment.

Contra indications & Cautions

- Cannot treat clients with sun tans (4-6 week wait after sun exposure)
- Cannot treat clients who are taking Roaccutane (6-12month wait)
- Skin types V and VI

Check with Physician if:

- Pregnant
- Long term use of oral or topical steroids
- Gold therapy
- Bleeders or users of anticoagulants
- Vitiligo (risk of pigment loss in treated area)
- Psoriasis/ eczema in treated area
- Facial / cosmetic tattoos

Are there any side effects?

Side effects of laser tattoo removal are rare but can include hypo or hyper pigmentation (lightening or darkening of the skin).

Infection is rare as long as the tattoo is treated adequately after the treatment. Applying antiseptic cream directly to the area after treatment and covered with a waterproof dressing. The area must remain dry for at least 72 hours. Swelling, pinpoint bleeding and bruising are all a normal response following the treatment.

General healing takes up to 4 weeks, during this time the area must be kept out of the sun and 30+ sunscreen must be applied.

Skin blistering is possible in some cases. The treated area may form a scab so care must be taken as not too pick or dislodge it, as early removal of the blister increases the chances of developing a scar. The risk of scarring is rare but possible. Customers with a history of hypertrophic or keloid scarring should be notified of their increased risk of scarring.