Second Skin / Adhesive Film Tattoo Aftercare

Second Skin (also called Saniderm, Derm Shield, or adhesive film) is a medical-grade breathable bandage used to protect your tattoo during the first stages of healing. It helps keep your tattoo clean, protected, and hydrated while reducing friction and outside contamination.

FIRST 24 HOURS

Leave the bandage on.

It is completely normal to see blood, plasma, ink, and fluid buildup underneath the film during the first 24–48 hours. This is part of the healing process.

Remove the bandage early if:
• The film begins leaking
• The seal opens
• Water gets underneath
• You develop a rash or severe irritation

WHEN TO REMOVE THE FILM

First Bandage: Keep the first application on for approximately 24–48 hours depending on fluid buildup.

Optional Second Application:
1. Remove the first bandage
2. Wash and fully dry the tattoo
3. Apply a fresh adhesive film to clean, dry skin
4. Leave the second application on for 3–5 days

Do not wear adhesive film longer than 7 days total unless instructed by your artist.

HOW TO REMOVE SECOND SKIN

The easiest way to remove the film is during a warm shower.

• Wash your hands first
• Slowly peel the film back low and parallel to the skin
• Do not rip upward aggressively
• Take your time to avoid irritation

AFTER REMOVING THE FILM

Wash the tattoo gently using lukewarm water and fragrance-free soap.

Remove excess plasma, ink, and residue carefully. Pat dry with a clean paper towel and allow the tattoo to air dry.

MOISTURIZING

Apply a very thin layer of fragrance-free lotion or tattoo aftercare moisturizer once the film is fully removed.

Avoid over-moisturizing. Your tattoo should feel hydrated, not greasy.

DURING THE HEALING PROCESS

DO:
• Keep the tattoo clean
• Wear loose clothing
• Stay hydrated
• Let peeling happen naturally

DO NOT:
• Scratch or pick the tattoo
• Soak in pools, baths, hot tubs, or the ocean
• Expose the tattoo to direct sunlight
• Overapply ointment

WHAT IS NORMAL?

Mild redness, itching, peeling, flaking, and tight skin are all normal during healing.

WHEN TO CONTACT YOUR ARTIST OR A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL

Seek professional advice if you experience:
• Excessive redness spreading outward
• Severe swelling
• Thick yellow or green discharge
• Fever or chills
• Extreme pain
• Persistent rash or allergic reaction

HEALING TIMELINE

Days 1–3: Fluid buildup and tenderness
Days 3–7: Peeling and itching

Weeks 2–4: Surface healing completes
Months 1–3: Skin continues settling beneath the surface

If you have any questions or concerns during healing, contact your tattoo artist directly.