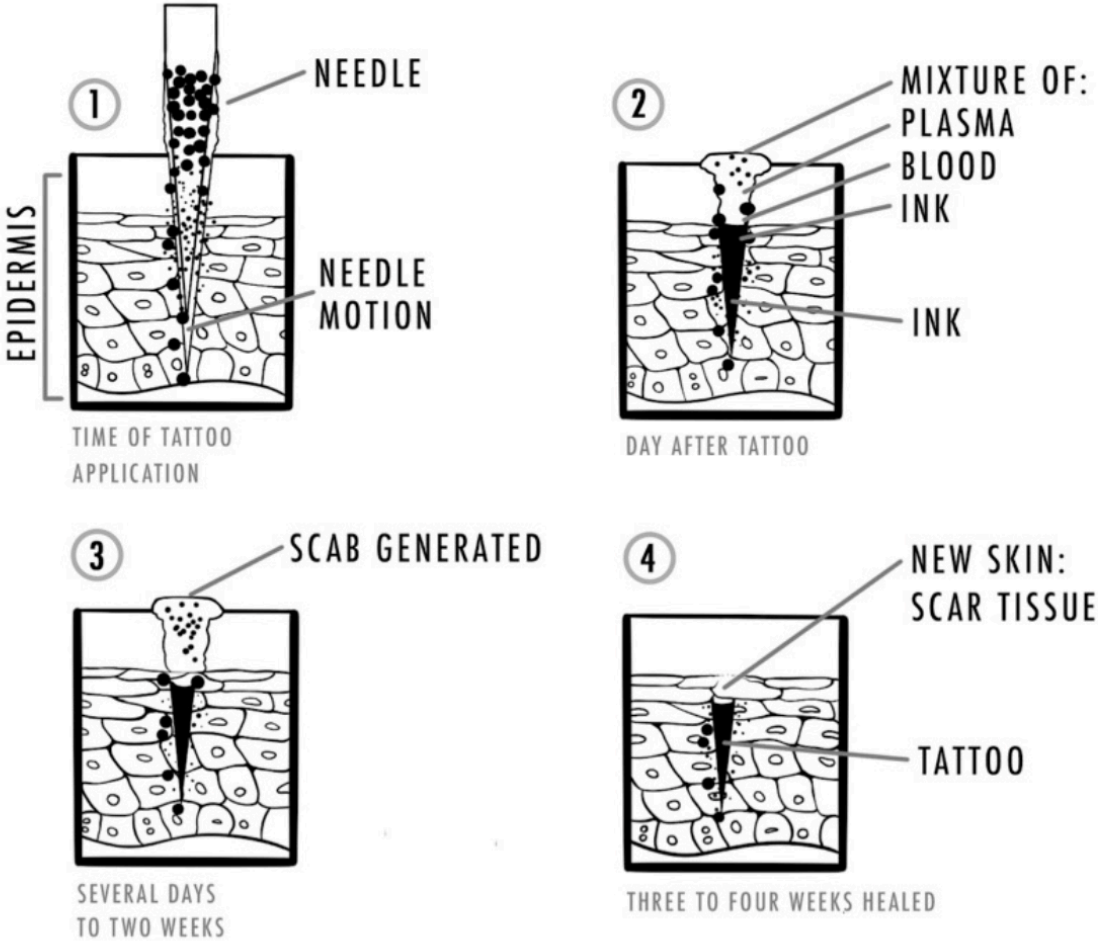


Understanding Tattoo Healing

To produce a permanent tattoo, the machine will push the needles into the dermis (the second layer of your skin) repeatedly at a quick speed. The needles hold and push the ink into the dermis as they penetrate the outer layers of skin. Some of the ink only reaches the epidermis (the first layer of skin). This area of the tattoo will not be permanent, as this layer of skin is continually shedding and replacing itself.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR SKIN WHEN YOU GET TATTOOED



Once pigment is placed in the skin, the body reacts by causing the area appear red, swell, and release blood plasma (often called lymph in the tattoo industry, which is a misnomer). This is caused by the continuous micro entry of the needle in the skin, which is similar to that of any superficial abrasion. The body increases blood flow to the area. The blood cells will encapsulate and remove some of the ink molecules, which will eventually be excreted from the body. Your blood cells aren't able to fully remove ink from the site of the tattoo and as the body uses platelets to stop fluid loss and repair damaged tissue, a mesh is created. Much of the pigment will get trapped within the mesh that is created and become scabs or flakes, causing your new tattoo to peel.

Remaining pigment particles too large to be removed by the blood cells will be captured by collagen and remain visible on your skin. Over the course of a week or two the body will be repairing the skin where the tattoo has been applied. This includes shedding dead layers of skin that the tattoo was placed beneath and reparation of the skin that will contain the tattoo itself. The process of tattooing the skin is thought to interrupt the skin's natural production of oils, which is why it is very important to moisturize the tattoo regularly. However, it is important not to over moisturize, as this will clog the pores, cause rashes or pimples, dissolve the delicate platelets and re-open the tattoo causing the release of more plasma, which will result in more scabbing. We recommend trying to simply maintain a moisture level consistent with the parts of you that are not healing a tattoo!

Once the newly healed tissue is ready, the scabs/flakes will begin to fall away, revealing a shiny, almost cellophane-like tissue beneath. This shiny skin will eventually return to normal, healthy looking skin after it has settled back into the natural process of exfoliation, which can take another week or so. When a tattoo is fully healed you will actually be looking at it through a layer of skin cells that is does not contain tattoo ink. It is this layer of skin cells that make skin appear to have a cooler matte finish.

Peeling and flaking is more common with shading (Powder Ombre Brows). Everyone's body responds differently in the healing process. Some may peel more than others and some not at all. Generally more mature skin, oily skin and skin with larger pores are more likely to produce more blood plasma leading to more peeling. In order to reduce a build up of fluid, you must repeatedly blot any fluid that your skin produces for the 24-48 hours. Apply multiple cold compresses with pressure throughout the first 24-48 hours. You can use a frozen bag of peas or ice pack (make sure to not leave too long on the skin if using an ice pack) with a sterile barrier (gauze or clean tissue) between your skin and the ice pack. Generally those who peel more, retain less pigment and may need an additional touch up session to achieve enough saturation. It is

important to not oversaturate in the initial sessions as heavily saturated pigment is very hard to lighten, whereas, you can always add pigment if the tattoo heals too light. You can always add but it is hard to take away.

Example of Normal Brow Peeling



Example of Normal Lip Peeling

