FREQUENTLY ASKED TATTOO REMOVAL QUESTIONS

**How does tattoo removal work?**

The skin has three layers: the epidermis or outer layer, the dermis or middle layer and the hypodermis or bottom layer. When you receive a tattoo, the ink is placed in the dermis. Lasers send energy through the epidermis with enough energy and heat to fragment or break up the ink in the dermis.

**Then what happens?**

When the ink breaks in small enough particles, it is able to penetrate through the hypodermis. Once through the hypodermis, it is been by your body as a foreign object. Macrophages, large cells that remove foreign bodies, encapsulate the ink and it is eliminated from the body by the lymphatic system.

The healthier your immune system, the better the results. Studies have shown that those who exercise regularly and drink large amounts of water see more of a positive result. Those who smoke or ingest other toxins tend to need more treatments over a period of time.

**What factors determine the outcome of the tattoo removal process?**

There are a number of factors that will determine the success and duration of the procedure. These include:

* The size of the tattoo
* The location of the tattoo
* The depth of the ink
* The density of the ink
* The colors of the tattoo
* The type of ink
* The health of your immune system

**How long will each session of treatment take?**

The removal process is actually very fast, but the time of each session will ultimately be determined on the size of the tattoo being removed. Very large tattoos will be removed in sections, with time in between sessions, to allow the body to eliminate the most ink efficiently.

**How many sessions will I need?**

On average, it takes 12-15 sessions to remove a tattoo. **HOWEVER**, this is only an average and it may be more or it may be less depending on the tattoo and your body. As stated above, there are many factors that contribute to the success of your tattoo removal. In addition, a tattoo may never be 100% removed.

**Which colors fade the fastest?**

Black does seem to fade the fastest and is the first color we target with the laser. That being said, there are some times when the black also includes greens and purples to make the color richer (we won’t know this until be begin the process of removing black). In general, colored tattoos take more treatments than a tattoo which only contains black.

**Will it go away 100%?**

There are over 250 different types of tattoo inks, none of which are regulated by the FDA. In addition, everybody’s immune system is different. In many cases we are able to remove a tattoo 100%, but in some cases the tattoo may never be fully gone. If, for whatever reason it cannot be 100% removed, it will fade. At this point, you could get another tattoo placed over the faded tattoo or use makeup to cover it up.

**Does it hurt?**

Yes. Everyone has a different pain tolerance but it does hurt more than getting the original tattoo. If you place ice on the tattoo prior to and after the removal it will help with the process.

**How do I care for it after?**

After the tattoo removal your technician will give post care instructions with what to do following your removal.

**Can you remove a portion of my tattoo?**

Yes. We can cover any areas you wish to keep, only removing what you want removed.

**Will I see a difference after my first treatment?**

It takes about 2 weeks for the body to absorb the ink. Some people see some difference after the first session, though many do not. It will be working, however it may take a few sessions to start seeing the results.

**How long will I have to wait between each treatment?**

We recommend 4-6 weeks. This will allow your body to absorb and eliminate the ink and your skin to rest before the next treatment.

**What if I am tan?**

We know being tan looks great, but if the area around your tattoo is tan, you run the risk of hypo (too little) or hyper (too much) pigmentation. If you come in tan, you will be asked to wait until your tan has faded before we do the procedure.