

Steady Tattoo & Body Piercing: Frequently Asked Questions

Below you will find answers about making an appointment, our deposit policy, and an outline of aftercare suggestions for tattoos and piercings.

Do I need to make an appointment?

For Piercings: Piercings are done solely on a walk-in basis. If you'd like to see a particular piercer, please call the shop to find out who will be in when.

For Tattoos: Not necessarily--we accept walk-ins when our schedule allows, but availability can vary greatly depending on season, day, and time. You can always give the shop a call to find out if we'd be able to accommodate you as a walk-in. Please keep in mind that walk-ins are first come, first serve basis.

Does Steady have an appointment deposit policy?

Yes we do. A deposit must be put down in order to hold and finalize a tattoo appointment, and that amount does go towards the final cost of your tattoo. For any appointment under 3 hours, the deposit is \$50; for appointments 3 hours or longer, the deposit is \$100.

If I change my mind, can I get my deposit back?

Nope--deposits are non-refundable, no exceptions.

What happens to my deposit if I need to reschedule or temporarily cancel my tattoo appointment?

As long as you call the shop AT LEAST 24 hours in advance of your appointment, your deposit will remain until you decide to reschedule. If you give the shop notice within 24 hours of your appointment or don't show up, you will lose your deposit.

How do I turn my idea into the best possible tattoo?

Clients are inspired by many different things when it comes to tattoos. If you have an idea but are having trouble realizing the image in your head, a good idea is to spend some time on the internet. Google, BME (Body Modification E-zine), and tattooers' websites can all be helpful in your search. Any images or reference materials you've collected can streamline the communication process between client and artist. In our experience, the best way to formulate ideas is simply to come in and speak with an artist, and the best tattoos are those wherein the artist is able to run with his/her ideas and come up with a completely original piece of artwork.

How do I know which artist to go with?

Check out the portfolios on our website, or stop by the shop to look at the portfolios here, which offer more extensive examples of artists' work. When looking through portfolios, don't just pay attention to the subject matter of the tattoos, but look at the way in which they execute the design. Each artist has his or her own style, which comes through in their tattoos.

Okay, so I have an idea and I have some images—what's next?

Once you've figured out which artist you'd like to have do the work, give the shop a call to set up a consultation. Consultations are completely free. They are meant to act as planning sessions between you and the artist, in which you can discuss your design ideas in detail, scope and size, location, price, etc. It's always best to set up a consultation ahead of time. At the end of your consultation, you can go about setting up a second consultation to come back in and see a drawing, or schedule an appointment to start the work.

What if I want an artist to draw something up for me?

If you'd like an artist to go ahead and start working on a drawing for you, you first need to leave a \$50 non-refundable deposit (see above). None of the artists here draw for free, but the artist can adjust the drawing as many times as you want until you think it's perfect.

How much will my tattoo cost?

The cost of a tattoo is directly related to the time it'll take to complete the work, and is affected by several variables: size, location on the body, level of detail, and color vs. black and gray. Smaller pieces are quoted by the piece, while multiple-session pieces are usually by the hour. If you have a budget you're trying to stay within, let us know, and we'll work with you to the best of our abilities to get you a well-done tattoo you love that stays within your budget. Our shop minimum is \$60 (\$80 for neck, ribs, and feet), and our hourly rate is \$150. Larger custom pieces done at the hourly rate are always broken up into multiple sessions, for which you pay per session.

If I don't have my license, can I use my school or work ID?

No. We only accept government issued photo IDs as forms of identification. There are no exceptions to this rule, and we cannot pierce or tattoo you if you don't have proper identification. Passports, state ID cards, military IDs, and driver's licenses are all acceptable forms of identification.

Can the piercer use a piece of jewelry I bring in for a new piercing?

No, unless it is a piece of jewelry purchased from us. If we don't know where the jewelry came from, we cannot guarantee its quality.

What kind of jewelry does Steady carry?

The majority of our jewelry is hypoallergenic implant-grade stainless steel, although we do have a small stock of both yellow and white gold jewelry.

For stretched piercings, we stock plugs and eyelets in both Pyrex and stainless steel. We also carry a large selection of organics, with materials such as wood, stone, bone, and horn.

If you are looking for a particular piece of jewelry that we don't carry, we can always special order it for you at no extra cost.

What should I expect after I get pierced?

Aside from flattery and numerous compliments on your new piercing, expect some soreness and redness in the first few days afterwards. You may also experience some swelling, bruising, and/or bleeding, which is normal but not expected. A yellowish-white secretion (don't worry, it's not pus) on and around the jewelry is also normal while your piercing heals.

How do I take care of my new tattoo or piercing?

Below is a step-by-step guide to what we here at Steady thinks work best for aftercare, and a quick list of some Dos and Don'ts.

Tattoo Aftercare Suggestions

1. After you've been bandaged up and sent on your way, leave the bandage on for a minimum of 4 to 8 hours—the longer, the better—but no more than 24. If you get tattooed later on in the day, leave the bandage on overnight. This allows your skin to push out as much fluid and excess ink as it can while keeping it moist and protecting it from any potentially harmful substances.
2. ICE ICE ICE! You should start the day you get tattooed, applying an ice pack (a bag of frozen vegetables works well) right over the bandage for a few minutes. It not only reduces swelling but it also will feel really good. Continue to ice at least once a day for the first three days, and make sure to wrap the ice pack in a clean towel.
3. Remove the bandage, wetting the area with warm water and gently sliding it off if it sticks. Wash your hands first, then, using as warm of water as you can stand and a mild, fragrance-free liquid soap (we like Dial Gold), gently lather the area, making sure to remove any and all excess fluids and ink. Gently pat the tattoo dry with a clean paper towel.
4. Continue to wash your tattoo two to three times a day for two weeks. For the first three days, wash it three times a day and let it air dry. (Note: some of our artists recommend applying a very thin layer of Aquaphor ointment after washing it during the first three days. Apply only as much as your skin can absorb!) Working out is absolutely okay—just be sure to wear a clean piece of clothing each time, not let it touch any nasty workout equipment, and wash it afterwards.
5. On about the fourth day begin using an aloe-free, fragrance-free lotion (we like Aveeno) on the tattoo, applying only as much as your skin can absorb. (If using Aquaphor, stop on the fourth day and switch to lotion). You can do this multiple times a day, as you feel it's needed.
6. During healing, your tattoo may flake, scab, or peel—this is totally normal. If it does, let it happen on its own! That means no picking or scratching.
7. Stay out of pools, lakes, rivers, oceans, hot tubs, saunas, and sun (this includes tanning beds) for at least two weeks! Bathtubs are okay; just refrain from soaking the area for any length of time. Your tattoo is an open wound, so treat it like one! While it's relatively easy to disrupt the healing and irritate the

area—by removing the bandage too early, not keeping it clean, scratching or picking—it only needs your attention and love to heal properly.

DO keep it clean

DO ice, liberally!

DON'T re-bandage the area

DON'T use A&D or Vaseline on it

DON'T pick off any ink flakes or scabs

DON'T listen to your friends—if you have a question about aftercare, give us a call.

Piercing Aftercare Suggestions

While there is no universal standard aftercare in piercing, not all aftercare is created equal! Depending on the piercing, it may take anywhere from three to six months (sometimes more, sometimes less) to fully heal. Taking good care of yourself—sleeping enough, eating well, staying hydrated, etc.—is an important factor in how your piercing heals; and keeping up with your aftercare for the duration of your healing time is crucial. While different piercing shops may recommend different aftercare, this is what we have found to work best. Please note that all this information and much more can be found in the pamphlet included in your aftercare bag. *Always make sure your hands are clean before touching or cleaning your piercing!*

For Facial and Body Piercings:

1. Wet your piercing with warm water, and using either a Q-Tip or your fingers, lather up a pearl-sized drop of Provon around your piercing. Leave the soap on for 30 seconds at most, then thoroughly rinse the area. If cleaning your piercing in the shower, it should be the last thing you do. Soap once a day.

2. Mix ¼ tsp. of iodine-free sea salt with 8 ounces of water in a coffee cup or Pyrex measuring glass (we like to use distilled water—you can pick up a gallon at a grocery store, Target, or CVS). Heat the mixture up for about a minute in the microwave, then soak your piercing for 5 to 10 minutes. With some piercings it may be difficult to soak your piercing; if this is the case, use a clean paper towel or sterile gauze pad, dipping it in the saline solution every 30 seconds or so. Rinse off your piercing with warm water, then gently pat dry with a clean paper towel. We know that this step can be a pain, but it is very important! The majority of times that clients experience problems with their piercings during healing are because they've stopped doing their saline soaks.

For Oral Piercings:

1. Rinse with provided alcohol-free mouthwash for 30 seconds throughout the day, every time you eat, drink, or smoke, and always before bed after brushing your teeth. You will do this for the entire length of your healing. Use the mouthwash no more than 5 times a day.

2. Mix ¼ tsp. iodine-free sea salt with 8 ounces of distilled water, heating it up in the microwave for about a minute, and gargle for about 30 seconds.

3. For lip and cheek piercings only: once a day, lather up a pearl-sized drop of Provon around the exterior of your piercing, leaving the soap on for no more than 30 seconds, and rinsing the area thoroughly afterwards. Prepare a saline solution, and soak the exterior of your piercing for 5 to 10 minutes at least twice a day. Pat area dry with a clean paper towel.

DO measure out your salt and water, making sure to do the correct ratios!

DO be gentle with your piercing.

DON'T use a plastic or wax cup to make your saline solution.

DON'T rotate your piercing during or after cleaning.

DON'T use a bath towel to dry your piercing. Not only can it catch on the jewelry, but it can also introduce bacteria.

DON'T use rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Bactine, Neosporin, or pierced ear care solutions on your piercing.

DON'T submerge your piercing in pools, lakes, rivers, hot tubs, etc. for the length of your healing. If you can't wait that long, cover your piercing with a waterproof bandage, making sure to seal the area off completely—Tegaderm works well, and you can find them at most drugstores.

DON'T touch your piercing with dirty fingers for any reason.

DON'T reuse saline solutions! Make a fresh mixture each time.

If you're unsure about any of the information on here, have a question that wasn't addressed, or would like more in-depth information, don't hesitate to give us a call!

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