

PART 3: PIERCING OF THE SKIN

MINIMUM STANDARDS 3B: TATTOOING

All operators who pierce the skin must comply with the previous section (minimum standards for all operators who pierce the skin), and also any of the relevant sections from 3A to 3E.

Sterilisation

- Sterilise all instruments (see summary Part 3: Piercing of the skin). This includes needles, needle bars, tubes, tube tips, and any other tools you use
- You must use a new sterilised needle for each customer.
- Do not reuse single-use disposable items
- Do not reuse tattoo needles
- Place needles in a puncture resistant container immediately after use.

Skin preparation

- Drape the body area surrounding the tattoo site with a single-use disposable paper product or clean linen.
- Dispense ointments, lotions and gels carefully to avoid contamination. Don't double dip.
- You must throw out any mattress, cushion, or linen that cannot be cleaned after coming in contact with body fluids. Use a clearly labelled biological waste bin for proper disposal.

Using dyes, pigments and solutions

When tattooing a customer you must:

- Decant the dye, pigment or solution into a clean, sterile container and only use it on the one customer,
- Use only that decanted dye, pigment or solution while you are performing that tattoo,
- Only use dyes, pigments and solutions that are specifically manufactured for tattooing.
- Dispose of any decanted dye, pigment or solution remaining on the completion of that tattoo. Don't use it on any other customer.
- Dispose of or sterilise the container holding the decanted dye, pigment or solution.
- Don't use any dye, pigment or solution which has passed its expiry date.

Additional recommended best practice – recommended but not compulsory

It is recommended:

- that you cover instruments such as tattoo machines and associated cords with a barrier such as a single-use disposable plastic bag that can be discarded after use to protect the machinery from splashes.
- that tattoo artists confirm with suppliers that any products purchased fit within the Environmental Protection Agency Group "Tattoo and Permanent Makeup Group Substances Standard" and therefore don't contain any hazardous substances.
- that you consult the Ministry of Health 'Guidelines for the Safe Piercing of Skin'.

NOTE: This summary sheet is provided only for information and does not replace or supplement the Hutt City Council Bylaw Code of Practice.