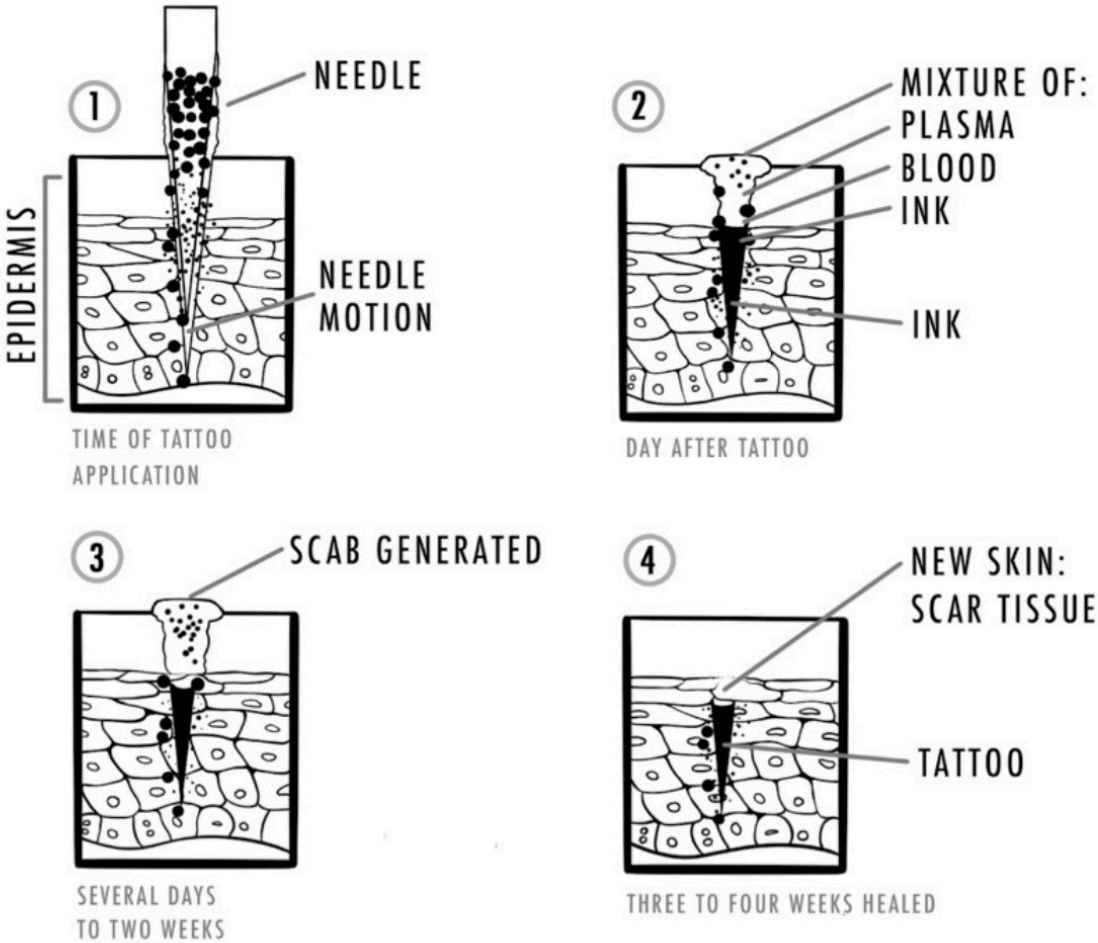


Understanding Tattoo Healing

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. 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 off 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 (otherwise you could scratch color off of a healed tattoo). It is this layer of skin cells that make skin appear to have a matte finish.