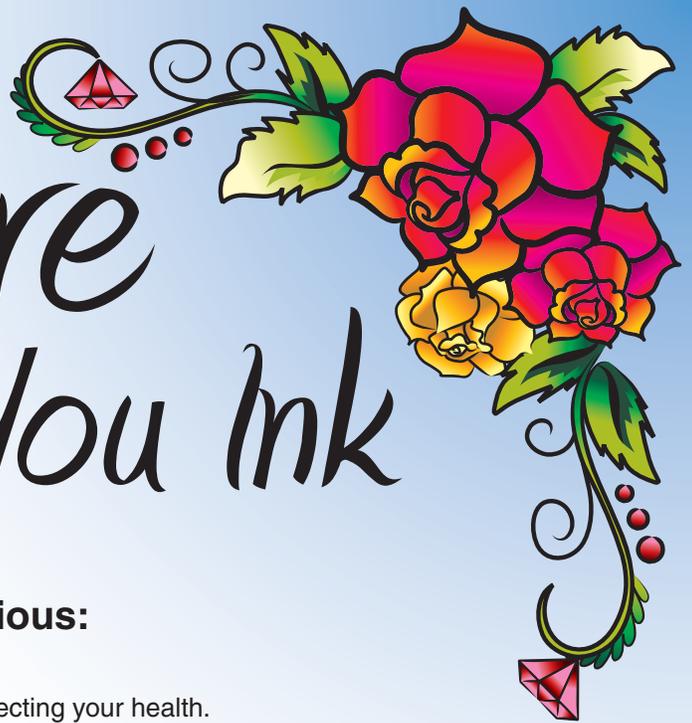


# Think Before You Ink



## It's a cute play on words, but, let's get serious:

Your body art is personal.

Also personal? Your health and the responsibility you have for protecting your health.

As with any procedure that breaks the skin, getting a tattoo comes with health risks.

Taking a few extra minutes to ask questions and observe your surroundings, before you get inked, could be the difference between clean art, and Hepatitis, HIV, and other viral and bacterial infections that carry life-altering consequences.

Whenever you're thinking of ink, use this as your go-to-guide:

## MUST-HAVES

### TATTOO OPERATIONS/FACILITIES MUST ALWAYS:

- appear to be clean and in good repair, with smooth washable equipment and surfaces.
- maintain the tattooing area totally separate from all other areas of the business and/or home, including all dining, washroom, kitchen, lounge and sleeping areas.
- be completely free from all pets.
- use single-use, disposable equipment wherever possible. Equipment can only be reused if it is intended to be a multi-use item, and – this is essential – it has been fully disinfected and sterilized.
- use puncture-resistant, biohazard containers for the safe disposal of needles. These containers are often yellow, and will look like the kind you see in a doctor's office.
- use clearly labeled ink for tattooing, and put that ink into individual, disposable ink-caps (new for each client).
- change all plastic and/or cloth barriers after every client.
- require all staff to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water between clients, and wear disposable gloves while tattooing a client. A new pair for every client is a must.
- require all staff to wear clean clothing and prohibit all staff from smoking, drinking or eating in the tattooing areas.
- provide you with written and verbal post-care instructions for healing your tattoo.
- ask for your contact information for its records.
- be able to provide you with a copy of its most recent public health inspection report. Always ask to see this, before you begin your tattoo procedure. If the facility cannot provide the report, do not get tattooed. Instead, contact your local AHS Environmental Public Health Office, to confirm facility is inspected and approved. See back side for contact details.**



# Think Before You Ink

## DEAL-BREAKERS

### TATTOO OPERATIONS/FACILITIES SHOULD NEVER:

- appear visibly dirty, including having dirt or ink on any surface in the work area. If your tattoo artist isn't clean with the things you can see, chances are good they aren't being clean with the things you can't see, either.
- allow pets into the tattoo area.
- re-use any tattoo equipment, unless it has been properly disinfected or sterilized (see reverse side for further details). This includes needles and tattoo tubes.
- dispose of used needles in a garbage can or any other container other than an approved biohazard disposal.
- allow staff to put needles directly into ink bottles. Individual, disposable ink caps should be used for each client.
- allow staff to select gel or cream from containers with bare fingers or dirty gloves.
- allow tattooing staff to answer phones or conduct any other business, in person, or on telephone, during your procedure.
- come to your house, nor even offer to come to your house, to complete your tattoo.
- be unable to provide you with a copy of its most recent public health inspection report. Always ask to see this, before you begin your tattoo procedure. If the facility cannot provide the report, do not get tattooed. Instead, contact your local AHS Environmental Public Health Office, to confirm the facility is inspected and approved. See contact details, below.**

If you have concerns or questions about a tattoo operation, would like to lodge a complaint, or confirm an operation has been inspected by AHS, contact AHS Environmental Public Health. To find your local AHS Environmental Public Health Office contact information, and more, visit [www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph.asp](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph.asp), or call the AHS Environmental Public Health main office for your Zone, at the numbers listed below.

North Zone Main Office (Grande Prairie): 780-513-7517  
Edmonton Zone Main Office (Edmonton): 780-735-1800  
Central Zone Main Office (Red Deer): 403-356-6366  
Calgary Zone Main Office (Calgary): 403-943-2295  
South Zone Main Office (Lethbridge): 403-388-6689

