

# Laser Tattoo Removal—How to Prepare and What to Expect

WITH STR8 UP LASER TATTOO REMOVAL



STR8 UP is offering free tattoo removal services for individuals looking to remove tattoos that are negatively impacting their quality of life and who are working towards transformation and liberation from gangs, addictions and criminal street lifestyles.



## **Preparing For Your Laser Tattoo Removal Treatment**

Follow these guidelines unless your Laser Technician directs otherwise

- We ask that you have clean skin, without lotions, oils, creams or fragrances of any kind before coming in. If there is excessive hair in the treatment area, we recommend shaving the area prior to treatment.
- Avoid sun exposure to the treatment area, and do not use tanning beds at all for four weeks before your scheduled treatment.
- Numbing creams may interfere with the efficacy of the treatment
- Avoid the use of any topical products that cause photosensitivity (eg. Hydroxy acids, salicylic acid, retinols and benzoyl peroxide) in the treatment areas for three days before treatment. Use a gentle cleanser and lotion on the treated areas.
- If you are taking any new or different medications or have received any medical spa services in the treatment area, such as BOTOX, dermal fillers after your initial consult, please contact our office to ensure that the treatment may still be performed.

## **What to Expect During Your Laser Tattoo Removal Session**

Following your initial application, if we determine you are a good candidate, we will proceed with the consultation prior to your first treatment. During the consultation, we will begin by asking a few pertinent questions about your recent health history to ensure there are no contraindications for treatment.

At the beginning of your session, the treatment area will be cleansed and prepared for treatment. The technician will talk you through the treatment to ensure you won't experience any surprises. While receiving laser tattoo removal, you will be required to wear protective eyewear. You may still be able to see a flash of light, but your eyes will be completely protected. The technicians wear protective eyewear as well.

The session can be performed in just minutes to 15 minutes, depending on the size of your tattoo and type of ink that was used. Most patients compare the treatment discomfort as comparable to when they got the tattoo. Following the treatment, you may feel a little discomfort, but generally people experience redness, mild swelling and/or tenderness in the treatment area.

## **After Your Laser Tattoo Removal Session**

- Redness, swelling, scabbing, flaking, irritation or blistering in the treatment area will most likely occur. This may persist for several days. A white-gray discoloration of the treatment area may appear immediately following treatment and last a few minutes to a few days. Your tattoo may darken, lighten or fade or even appear to have no change immediately post treatment. On average, it takes 6-12 weeks for the immune system to process the pigment of the tattoo.
- Discomfort may be relieved by taking an over the counter pain reliever or by using ice packs in 20-30 minute intervals.

- Avoid sun exposure to the treatment area throughout the course of your laser sessions. If sun exposure is necessary, keep treatment area covered with a non-adherent bandage or wear a sun block SPF of 25 or higher, protecting against UVA/UVB rays over the area. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, and do not use tanning beds at all for four weeks after treatment
- Keep the treated area clean and dry while it is healing. Clean the area gently with soap and water and then pat the area dry. You may apply a thin coating of ointment (i.e. Aquaphor) twice a day for three days while the area is healing. Keep the area covered with a sterile dressing in that time.
- Should you scab, don't pick or expose the scabbed area, as it may result in infection, scarring, or permanent pigment change. Shaving should be avoided in the treated area until it is completely healed.
- Exercise is generally safe after treatment taking into account the other after care instructions provided here. Some bruising may be experienced if muscles underneath the treated area are exercised.
- It is ok to shower after the treatment but take care to avoid high pressure water hitting the treated area. Baths, hot tubs, swimming pool, or any form of soaking are not recommended until all blistering and scabbing are completely healed as they may increase the risk of infection.
- Sessions will be scheduled approximately 8 weeks apart

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office 306.244.1771 or [tattooremoval@str8-up.ca](mailto:tattooremoval@str8-up.ca)

## **Frequently Asked Questions About Laser Tattoo Removal**

### **CAN ALL TATTOOS BE REMOVED?**

We can treat both professional and amateur tattoos.

### **DOES LASER TATTOO REMOVAL HURT?**

The degree of discomfort varies with each person depending on the nature and location of the tattoo. Most patients felt that is comparable to getting the tattoo initially. Patients report that the discomfort is well worth the results!

### **HOW MANY TREATMENTS WILL I NEED?**

The number of sessions will depend on how large the tattoo is, what ink were used, and how deep the tattoo was inked into the skin. On average, most patients will need 3-12 sessions to achieve desired results.

### **HOW DOES LASER TATTOO REMOVAL WORK?**

The Duality Laser System is a medical laser platform that creates extremely short pulses of light energy. Tattoo ink absorbs the energy, shatters into tiny fragments, and is removed by the immune system. Over a series of treatments, your tattoo will visibly fade away to reveal the natural look of your skin.

### **DO I QUALIFY?**

Our service is free for those who meet the requirements outlined in our objective statement. If you would like to know if you qualify, please fill out an application form at [str8-up.ca](http://str8-up.ca) and our team will contact you to discuss.