

TATTOO

★ www.hepatitistattoos.org ★

FACT SHEETS

What is a Tattoo?

Author: Alan Franciscus

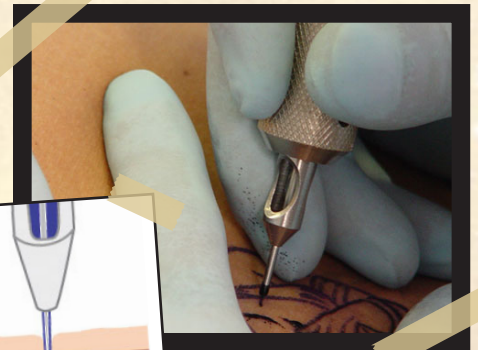
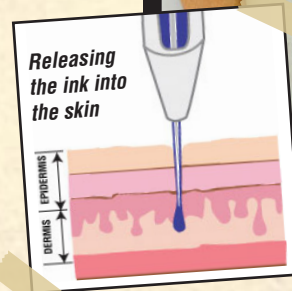
A tattoo is a colored mark or figure that is permanently etched into the skin. There are records of people getting tattoos since before recorded history—the oldest record of a tattoo dates back about 5,300 years ago from a mummified man who had multiple tattoos over his body.

Tattoo culture has come a long way since our early ancestors marked their bodies, but the reasons people get a tattoo are probably the same—to mark or signify a group or event or simply to beautify the body.



The mechanical part of the tattoo

A tattoo machine is used that pricks or lightly pierces the skin. The needle is a certain length so it goes through the upper level (epidermis) down to the lower level (dermis) of the skin where the ink is released. A commercial needle is either dipped in a separate ink pot or a separate color tube is used. The process of the machine injecting the ink is done with very fast repeated small injections.



After Care

After the tattoo is completed the tattoo artist will provide written and verbal information about after-tattoo care to prevent any scarring or infections. During the initial healing period the skin will shed the outer layers and heal, leaving the tattoo as a permanent part of the skin.

*Since the skin is being punctured it's important that people take precautions to make sure that they don't get more than just a tattoo.

