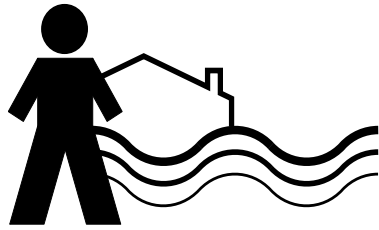


For More Information



Eau Claire City-County Health Department
720 Second Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-839-4718
www.echealthdepartment.org

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fsrl/index.htm>

Center for Disease Control

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/niosh-science-blog/2008/02/04/body-art/>

Body Art Safety



**A GENERAL GUIDE OF THINGS TO CONSIDER
BEFORE GETTING A TATTOO OR PIERCING**

Health Risks of Tattoos and Piercings

Who can get a tattoo or piercing?

Nobody under 18 shall be tattooed. Nobody under the age of 16 may be body pierced. Persons ages 16 or 17 may be body pierced with a consent form signed by a legal guardian.

Licensed establishment and artist

Tattoos and piercings must be performed in a licensed establishment by a licensed artist. Unless a home is licensed as a body art facility, it is illegal to perform these procedures in one.

Possible complications:

Infection: it is possible to transmit infectious diseases such as hepatitis or HIV/AIDS through non-sterile tattooing equipment and needles. MRSA, Staph, and other types of skin infections may occur through contamination of equipment, surfaces or improper aftercare.

Allergic reactions: allergic reactions to tattoo ink and body art jewelry may occur.

Other complications: granulomas, keloid formation, and MRI complications

Aftercare procedures:

- ⤴ Be sure that anything that touches your tattoo or piercing is clean and soft (hands and clothing)
- ⤴ Minimize exposure to sunlight (natural or artificial), dirt, water (pools, lakes, hot tubs, saunas), and other contaminants in the two weeks following your procedure
- ⤴ If the area of your new tattoo or piercing has unusual swelling, redness, and/or pus-like discharge or is not healing in a timely manner, contact your Doctor immediately.

Questions to ask & What to look for

What to ask:

1. Are you licensed?
Tattoo artists and facilities must be licensed by Eau Claire City-County Health Department and/or the state of Wisconsin. All licenses must be displayed.
 2. How do you clean your equipment?
If reusable equipment is used, it must be sterilized. Ask to see autoclave logs and spore test results.
Otherwise, only single use, disposable equipment should be used.
 3. What inks, chemicals, and jewelry are used? Do they meet body art standards or contain allergens?
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Things to look for:

- ⤴ Hands washed frequently and single use gloves used (while prepping skin, during the procedure, after an interruption, while cleaning soiled equipment)
 - ⤴ Opening of single use or sterilized equipment, such as needles or forceps, immediately prior to procedure
 - ⤴ Work station including countertops, trays, and chairs are disinfected before patron is seated
 - ⤴ Skin cleaned and antiseptic used before procedure
 - ⤴ Verbal and written after care procedures given
 - ⤴ No smoking, eating or drinking in work area. Animals, except service dogs, are prohibited.
 - ⤴ Well lit work area and clean, washable floors, walls, and ceilings.
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Unregulated procedures:

Neither Wisconsin State Code nor Eau Claire City-County Codes regulate these procedures. Standards for safety and best practice has not been developed.

- Laser tattoo removal
- Branding and Scarification
- Tongue bifurcation
- Micro and sub-dermal implantation