

<p><b>Age Limits at Metal Morphosis</b>  <b>We operate a very strict policy...</b>  <b>This is to protect us both.</b></p> <p>PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT NEW ID CHECKS ARE IN PLACE.</p> <p><b>Body Piercing</b>  We request PHOTO ID (either <b>Passport</b> or <b>Driving Licence</b>) for ages 17 to 21. If you fail to prove your age we will refuse to offer you the treatment.</p> <p><b>Ear Lobes Piercing (Studex)</b>  It is a formality that any client aged 16 or below must have a parent or legal guardian present to sign the consent form. If you don't have a parent or legal guardian present to prove your age we will refuse to offer you the treatment.</p> <p><b>Genital Piercing</b>  We request PHOTO ID (either <b>Passport</b> or <b>Driving Licence</b>) for ages 18 to 21. If you fail to prove your age we will refuse to offer you the treatment.</p> <p><b>Tattooing</b>  We request PHOTO id (either <b>Passport</b> or <b>Driving Licence</b>) for ages 18 to 21. If you fail to prove your age we will refuse to offer the treatment.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE: It is a criminal offence to Tattoo any person under the age of 18 years old.</b></p>
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## Temporary Tattoos

### Lasts 3 to 5 days:

At some point in our life I am sure you have wondered about committing to a tattoo. We most likely stop at that point!! Here at Metal Morphosis we have very experienced artists that can design you a temporary tattoo using temporary skin ink which will only last for 3 to 5 days and slowly wear off. If you are thinking of having a real tattoo it's always great to see what it feels like first, either bring in a design or we have thousands of designs to choose from prices start from £10.00

## Henna Tattoos

### Lasts 2 to 3 weeks:

The Art of Henna has been used in India and the Middle East since early Egyptian times. At Metal Morphosis we only use the best quality **100% Natural Henna**. (Not the controversial Black Henna) Henna is applied to the skin using a special cone and takes approximately 20 minutes to dry. It then flakes off and leaves a light brown stain that gets darker after 24hrs and lasts 2 to 3 weeks. Prices start from £10.00

## Ear Lobe Piercing

At Metal Morphosis we offer FREE piercing with the purchase of our starter studs.

We have a large range of ear studs to choose from starting from £12.00 per stud. All of our ear piercing equipment is fully disposable including the studex cartridges used to pierce, these cartridges are designed to only be used once, and so when used, are of no further use and are disposed of. You can rest assured that the cartridges used on you are not used on anyone else. So you can rest assured that the gun used on you is thrown away has never and will never be used on another person. Your piercer is fully trained to pierce your ears having passed all the necessary requirements and is licensed to pierce you. We are body piercing professionals so we feel we offer the best in aftercare and after sales service.

## Frequently Asked Questions

We've put this leaflet together to give you a better understanding of what will happen when you come into one of our studios.

It is advisable to call before coming in for a piercing just to check that there is a piercer free to perform your piercing. If you would like to be tattooed it's normally best to make an appointment either over the phone or in person. You can find all our studio numbers on the leaflet.

By following the points below you can save time when you come in.

- Make sure you have eaten before you come in.** We ask everyone to make sure that they have had something to eat within the last hour before getting their treatment. This will raise your blood sugar level and make the treatment much easier for you.
- Alcohol:** drinking a small amount of alcohol will start to thin your blood. This will interfere with your treatment so we have a no alcohol policy. Make sure you have had no alcohol before you come in.
- Age limits:** At Metal Morphosis we have a strict age limit of 17 years and over for body piercing and 18 years and over for genital piercing and tattooing. For ear lobes piercing with studs if you are 16 or under you will need to bring along your parent/guardian to co-sign our consent form. Parent / guardian must be present during the piercing. For more information on our age limits and ID please read the relevant section on this leaflet.
- Consent Forms.** For any type of piercing or tattooing you will need to fill out a consent form. This is not as most people think a waiver releasing us of all blame, but a very important document that you need to read and sign. The form's main purpose is to highlight any health issues you may have that would affect us treating you. Please read though the consent form, and if you have any questions our staff will be on hand to help you out.
- Information.** Our staff are on hand to give you as much information as possible please feel free to ask them any questions about the service you are having. We feel that the more information you have the easier and more enjoyable your visit will be. At any time after your treatment we are always there to offer help, just give us a call or pop back in to the studio for any help or advice you may need.

## Tattooing FAQ

If you are thinking of having a tattoo here is some information that will help you out before you come into the studio.

## Choosing your design:

We have 1000's of designs in our studios that you can browse though, or you can bring in your own design be it a rough sketch, printout from the internet etc. It doesn't have to be a tattoo related design, it can be almost anything from anywhere! Our artists will be able to help you with your design by redrawing it and making the changes that will make it the tattoo you want forever.

When looking for designs or ideas don't limit yourself, almost anything can be used as a design or part of a design. People bring us all sorts of reference so go on give us a challenge.

If your tattoo is to contain any type of text or numbers etc, you must supply these we cannot take any responsibility for translations etc.

A lot of designs people bring us are fine on paper but skin is another thing. Ink can spread over time and designs with tiny detail may look great to start out with but over time may not look as good. Some designs might not work as well on some parts of the body and may need a little redesign. When we are dealing with your tattoo we take all of this into account and will be able to advise you as to what is best.

Remember a tattoo is for life so take your time and choose wisely what may seem cool or fashionable now might not be in 20 years time. A tattoo is for life so make sure you make a good choice.

## Tattoo Aftercare

## Care of your new tattoo

- Leave the dressing on for at least 4 hours, then remove the dressing and wash the tattoo well using our tattoo wash and warm water or a non-perfumed soap.
- Make sure you wash away all the Vaseline that has been applied to the area.
- DO NOT scrub the area, but make sure it's left well cleaned.
- Pat the area dry with a clean towel and start to apply your tattoo healing cream, rub the cream all over the tattoo making sure not to rub into the skin too much just smear a good amount all over the tattoo.
- Apply the cream 3 or 4 times a day making sure the tattoo does not fully dry out as this can lead to bad healing and heavier scabbing.
- As your tattoo heals you will notice that it may look a little dull, this is part of the healing process and is caused by the new skin forming over the top of the ink. Over the next 6 – 14 days the tattoo will be forming new skin and in doing so completes its healing process. During this time it is of the utmost importance that the tattoo is well cared for and kept out of the sun or sun beds and try to stop anything too rough rubbing over the area.
- Swimming should be avoided for the first 6 weeks as this can also cause problems.
- It may take up to 2 months for the skin over the tattoo to fully heal but your tattoo will look normal during this time.
- If your tattoo is not looked after well during the healing time it will result in a faded or damaged tattoo.
- For your tattoo to heal quickly and get the best results do not drink alcohol or use drugs these will affect healing, a healthy body makes for a healthy tattoo.
- Everybody's tattoo will heal in slightly different ways and it may sometimes be necessary for you to return to the studio for a touch up session, the main cause of this is that a small amount of ink/colour may just need to be retouched in order to complete the tattoo. It is far better to allow the tattoo to fully heal first in order to see if a touch up is needed.
- If you follow all of the advice above you should have no problem with your new tattoo, but if there is anything you are unsure about or need to ask for any more advice please feel free to phone the studio you were tattooed at or come back into the studio for a chat. All of our studios stock a full range of our tattoo aftercare products designed to help new tattoos heal easily and look their best.

## Ear Piercing Aftercare

### For ear lobes only.

- The aftercare of your new ear piercing is of the utmost importance. Failure to adhere to these instructions could lead to infection and prolonged healing problems.
- Never touch the new piercing with your fingers (use cotton buds only). This reduces the chances of infection. You should follow these instructions for a minimum of eight weeks.

### How to clean your piercing.

- Wash your Hands thoroughly before you start.
- At NO point during the 8 week healing time should the studs be removed from the piercing.
- Using a cotton bud soaked in Metal Morphosis Antibacterial Cleansing Lotion, or salt water, gently push the stud backwards through the piercing this will move the butterfly clip away from the ear allowing you to clean off any dried matter. Please be diligent in this process as this is where most of the dried matter will collect.
- With a fresh cotton bud dry the area you have just cleaned.
- Reverse the process with a clean cotton bud soaked in Metal Morphosis Antibacterial Cleansing Lotion, or salt water, push the stud forward from the rear (butterfly clip) allowing you to clean the front of the piercing stud.
- With a fresh cotton bud dry the area you have just cleaned.
- Gently rotate the stud as you clean the jewellery this will automatically help to release any dried matter.

## Points to Remember.

- You must clean your piercing twice a day for at least eight weeks.
- You can change your jewellery after this period, if the healing is complete. It is advised you check with your piercer before doing so.
- Remember even though you are changing the jewellery after 8 weeks this doesn't mean the piercing is healed. So you must still use suitable jewellery.

- We carry a range a full range ear piercing studs and other jewellery which can be fitted into any piercing after the initial 8 week period.
- After the initial 8 weeks, you should bear in mind that your piercing is **Not Fully Healed** and should not be left empty (without jewellery) for 6 – 8 months. This could result in the closure of your piercing.
- Do Not** touch or play with your piercing this is the biggest cause of problems.
- If you have issues regarding your piercing please do not hesitate to contact us at the studio which you were pierced.

## Body Piercing Aftercare

Having a new piercing involves breaking the skin surface so there is always a potential risk for infection to occur afterwards. It is important that this advice is followed so that the infection risk can be minimised.

Minimising piercing infection risk – general guidance & information:

- Most piercings bleed at first but this should stop within a few minutes. This may occasionally reoccur a little during the first few days and should stop with applying pressure for a few minutes. If excessive/continuous, seek medical help.
- Current medical advice strongly recommends that a new piercing is handled as little as possible, so that exposure to germs is reduced. For the same reason, do not pick at or play with a new piercing.
- Always wash & dry your hands before and after handling a new piercing site.
- Do not use fingernails to move jewellery or manipulate the piercing.
- After removal of any dressing applied by your piercer, clean the piercing twice a day, if possible.
- Soak off any crust formation before you attempt to turn it or move it.
- Always pat dry your piercing after cleaning with a clean dry cotton bud or clean tissue.
- It is advisable to shower rather than bathe whilst the piercing site is healing so that unnecessary water exposure is prevented. Always pat the area dry using a clean dry cotton bud or clean tissue.
- Try to wear loose, cotton clothing to minimise rubbing and irritation to a new piercing site.
- Most piercings swell to some extent and hence jewellery inserted will be longer than between the piercing holes at first.
- New piercings should be kept as dry and exposed as much as possible.
- Only change the jewellery as directed by your practitioner.
- Only turn/move the jewellery when you are cleaning it.
- Only buy jewellery from a reputable retailer. Your practitioner can advise you on this.
- A new piercing can be tender, itchy and slightly red and can remain so for a few weeks. A clear, odourless fluid may sometimes discharge from the piercing and form a crust. This should not be confused with pus, which would indicate infection.
- Please avoid getting any products such as make-up, foundation, fake tan, cleanser or moisturiser around the site of initial piercings as these can collect oil and dirt causing infection.

## Basic cleaning for all piercings

Clean your piercing two or three times a day with Metal Morphosis Antibacterial Cleansing Lotion or use a sterile saline solution. If using a sterile saline solution make sure you use a clean or disposable cup or bowl to hold your cleaning solution. After a few days the piercing will start to excrete fluid (lymph), which will dry hard on the jewellery and should be removed using a cotton bud soaked in solution. Clean the visible part of the jewellery at both the entry and exit holes of the piercing. When the jewellery is completely clean gently ease the jewellery through the piercing (once only) to clean the part that normally remains inside the piercing. Make sure you also clean around the piercing area as well. Dry the entire area with a fresh cotton bud. Repeat this process two to three times a day. Make sure you clean the area after your daily bath/ shower, as bath water and regular soap is not clean.

**CAUTION:** Ointments do not clean or disinfect piercings. Do not use soap to clean your piercing. To ensure your piercing heals as quickly as possible discontinue using antiseptic ointment e.g.: Savlon, Germolene, TCP, Dettol and surgical spirit. All of these products will slow the healing process; we find the use of a daily Zinc supplement speeds the healing process (this you will find in the After Care Pack).

### For all types of ear piercing.

Clean the piercing twice a day. Make sure the piercing and jewellery is not touched and played with as this will cause problems. Try not to sleep on the new piercing and make sure you keep headphones and phones from knocking the piercing during the healing.

### For nipple and navel piercings:

When you leave the studio you will have a sterile adhesive dressing covering the piercing. Leave this on until the following morning giving the piercing time to settle. Apply the dressing only during the night; leave it off during the day so it can breathe. Please wear a cotton T-shirt at night to protect it. We would advise you to shower not bathe, as this is more hygienic. Cover with a dressing each evening and repeat this for 4 nights. The navel area tends to collect dirt and can be prone to infections even without a piercing. A small amount of redness and crusting is normal, as is a discharge of a small amount of clear fluid.

Clean both piercing holes twice a day with a cotton bud as in the general advice section. Use a separate cotton bud for each hole. Avoid tight clothing around the waist and do not use belts until site is healed. Cover the site with a clean, dry breathable dressing if doing stretching exercises/ contact sports. NB: It is recommended that navel jewellery is only changed on the advice of, and by, your piercer. This is usually done between the first six to twelve months after a navel piercing. Minimum healing time: four months to one year.

### Eyebrows and ear piercings.

Clean twice a day and keep all other touching or movement to a minimum during healing. Be careful not to get any cleaning fluid into your eyes when cleaning.

### Septums and Nostrils:

Clean both piercings twice a day, nostrils clean inside and out, also be careful when washing or dressing not to catch the jewellery as this will harm the piercing.

### For Oral piercings:

### Tongue.

Use Metal Morphosis Antiseptic Mouthwash or any other alcohol free one after eating, drinking or smoking. Brush teeth gently while the piercing is healing.

Ice will help to reduce the swelling. Taking arnica and Ibruprofen can also help to reduce bruising and swelling. Kissing or any other oral contact should be avoided for at least 6 weeks. Chewing gum should not be used until the site is healed or you feel confident with the piercing. Care is needed when using cutlery, so as not to damage the piercing. Spicy food/alcohol may need to be avoided for the first week as they may cause problems. Oral sex should be avoided until after the first two weeks. The bar size should be changed after 1 month. The tongue may swell to the length of the inserted bar, particularly in the first two weeks. Iced water may help to reduce the amount of swelling that occurs. If the bar becomes too tight please see your piercer. If out of hours, contact NHS Direct or a Walk-in Centre. If you have problems with swallowing or any neck pain, however, you must contact a medical practitioner. Minimum healing time: two months.

**Lip, Cheek, Labret, Madonna:** Clean the outside of the site twice daily with a cotton bud as in the general advice section. If you have a ring, then clean the jewellery also as you move it around. Minimum healing time: three months.

**For Genital Piercings:** Clean cotton underwear should be worn during the healing period. The piercing should be kept as dry as possible except when cleaning or washing. Please do not cover the piercing all the time as this prevents air circulating. For genital piercings use condoms to protect the piercing from bacteria, germs and viruses during intercourse. There may be intermittent bleeding for the first few days after the initial piercing. If the urethra is pierced (males only) you may also pass some blood in your urine for a few days. Any bleeding should only be minor. If it is a continuous and/ or heavy loss you must seek immediate medical attention. Sexual contact should be avoided for the first two weeks and should be gentle at first. Barrier protection should be used as part of a safe sex routine. Minimum healing time: one to three months for genital (male and female) genital piercing including inner labia and clitoral hood. An outer labia piercing may take several months to heal.

For all surface piercing follow the normal cleaning advice but be extra careful not to knock, touch or move the jewellery/piercing as little as possible. Your piercer will advise you of additional aftercare instructions specifically related to surface piercings. Follow these to aid healing.

For all piercings except Oral: Swimming in chlorinated pools or the sea should be avoided for 4 weeks. If excessive redness, swelling, bleeding, changes of colour in tissue or soreness persists DO NOT remove jewellery. Contact the studio where you were pierced if this is not possible seek medical help...

If you have any queries, problems or worries please do not hesitate to contact us on the number on the back of this form. Out of hours seek medical attention either through your GP or local walk-in centre. In emergencies you should attend the local A & E Department. Try to avoid removing the jewellery before being assessed.

### For Microdermal Aftercare.

Use Micropore tape to keep the jewellery tapped down in position for the initial 3 weeks. This will allow your piercing to heal at the correct depth. Morning and evening apply a salt water compress to clean your piercing: 1/4 tsp of sea salt into 1 mug of boiled water (thats cooled down so it won't burn you) soak clean cotton wool, gauze or tissue into the solution and soak the piercing site for 5-10 minutes. Dry the skin clear of solution afterwards. Repeat this for 6 weeks you will be able to change the top of your microdermal in 6 weeks, but we recommend you have your piercer do this for you. In the event that you wish to remove your microdermal please contact your piercer. Do not attempt to remove it yourself.

## Common Complications

## Infection

If aftercare advice is not followed correctly, infection can occur at the site.

Possible indications of an infection are:

- increased redness and/or swelling
- the piercing is painful to touch
- there may be a painful throbbing sensation or a feeling of “heat” at the site
- the discharge becomes yellow or green in colour and smells offensive

## Jewellery Migration

This is when the jewellery starts to move outwards through your skin. Eyebrow and navel piercings can be particularly prone to this. Please see your piercer if you notice this occurring, if left unchecked, it can lead to the piercing being pulled/torn out of the skin. This may then lead to permanent scarring.

## Possible Complications to Specific Piercing Sites

Ear & Nose. Small 'lumps' may form around the piercing site, these are called granulomas. To reduce, try to keep the site of the piercing clean and dry as granulomas are usually the result of a build up of dirt and oil clogging the piercing site. Avoid getting makeup and product around your piercing and apply a salt water soak daily. 1/4 tsp of sea salt into 1 mug of boiled water (thats cooled down so it wont burn you) soak clean cotton wool, gauze or tissue into the solution and soak the piercing site for 5-10 minutes. Dry the skin clear of solution afterwards. These are not dangerous but left untreated they can become more problematic to your piercing.

Nose septum can be very tender for the first few weeks but this should lessen.

Eyebrow can be problematic as the skin is quite thin. Migration can also occur forcing the piercing out. Please see your piercer if this occurs.

Tongue Piercing may cause permanent damage to teeth due to the constant friction of the jewellery against teeth enamel. This can be reduced by using the correct sized jewellery in the first place and making sure you change the jewellery to a smaller size when your piercer advises you to.

If you have any problems/queries please contact your piercer initially. He/she will refer you onto your GP if there are signs of adverse reaction/infection. However, in an emergency, you must seek urgent medical help by going to your nearest Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department.

**www.metalmorphosis.co.uk**  
**www.myspace.com/metalmorphosisuk**