

Tattooing Checklist

Training & Competency

- Separate Infection control training completed
- Knowledge of [tattooing & body piercing guidance toolkit](#)
- Evidence/Certificate

Treatment Room Standards

- Dedicated wash hand basin in treatment area with a supply of hot & cold water/mixer available to basin – for the sole use of the operator, located in the treatment room
- Antibacterial soap in single-use dispenser – include in cleaning regime
- Disposable paper towels/roll provided (no reusable towels) (recommendation: wall mounted dispenser)
- Internal door, window, partition, floor, floor covering or ceiling is kept clean and in good repair as to enable it to be cleaned effectively
- The walls and floor of the treatment area smooth and impervious
- Treatment couch in good repair, smooth and impervious
- Paper roll changed between clients
- No reusable throws/blankets
- Furniture and similar fittings in the premises kept in such good repair to enable them to be cleaned effectively – no excess dust traps/dried flower arrangements in vicinity
- Adequate general lighting
- Local task lighting available

Tools & Equipment:

Machine/Hand Piece used

- Brand name & details
- Electrical cord/battery or USB charged
- CE marked /supplier information with CE approval

Cleansing procedure for Machine/Hand Piece

- Follow manufacturer's instructions
- Small parts needing ultrasonic cleaner &/or autoclave/steam steriliser
- Solid piece-use Clinell wipes
- Cling wrap/cord sleeve

Re-usable tools in use, sterilisation required:

Vacuum/Type B or S steam sterilisers with drying cycle suitable for Tattoo/microneedling

- CE Approved
- Porous, hollow or wrapped
- Records/printout
- Annual validation + service by an accredited engineer
- Autoclave is located in a dedicated decontamination room/area.

Non vacuum autoclave/Type N, no assisted air removal - designed for solid metal tools, unwrapped equipment, and instruments without hollow spaces. Suitable for Tattoo or micropigmentation.

- CE Approved
- Records/printout
- Annual validation + service by an accredited engineer
- Autoclave is located in a dedicated decontamination room/area.

Autoclave – for reusable, non-single-use instruments.

- CE Approved
- Daily autoclave record sheet - run the steriliser
- Sterilisation logs - records of each cycle, including date, load, operator name, and confirmation that the machine passed the cycle.
- Examination under Pressure system regs
- Annual validation/ examination report + service by an accredited engineer.
- Autoclave is located in a dedicated decontamination room/area.

Autoclave Type & Use

- Packaged, hollow, or tubular items sterilised in a vacuum autoclave with a drying cycle.
- Unwrapped solid items processed in a vacuum autoclave (no drying cycle required) or a non-vacuum autoclave.
- Items in non-vacuum autoclave are solid, unwrapped, kept clean, used same day (ideally within 3 hours) or reprocessed before use.
- Non-vacuum autoclave has a fitted temperature indicator and, ideally, a printer.

Packaging & Loading

- Paper pouches are only used in a vacuum autoclave and are dry after sterilisation.
- Instruments required sterile at point of use are pre-packed sterile or sterilised immediately before use.
- Equipment correctly loaded (dismantled, hinges open, no overlapping).
- Equipment trays are clean and free from rust.

Records & Monitoring

- Maintenance and breakdown records kept per manufacturer instructions.
- Daily cycle checks (temperature, holding time, pressure) completed and documented.
- Weekly steam penetration test (e.g., Bowie Dick/Helix) completed and recorded.

- Weekly safety checks performed (e.g., seals) and documented.
- Autoclave removed from service after any unsatisfactory test result until fixed.
- Written scheme of examination available per Pressure Systems Regulations.

Staff & Operation

- Only trained staff operate the autoclave.
- Manufacturer-recommended water is used.
- Water reservoir drained daily and left clean and dry at end of each session.

Instrument Storage

- Wrapped instruments are dated and stock rotated.
- Sterile equipment is stored dry.
- Packs are free from tears and water damage.
- Autoclaved equipment stored in a labelled, washable container.

Ultrasonic Cleaner (if needed)

- CE Approved
- Remove soiling from complex surfaces
- Records

Cleansing of other instruments

- Tweezers
- 'Washed' items disinfected
- Hypochloride solution made up daily

Hygiene & Single-Use Item Checklist

- Tattoo motors and clip cords are covered with plastic, which is renewed between clients.
- Elastic bands used on tattoo motors are changed between clients.
- Tattoo stencils are single use.
- Single-use marker pens are used for freehand or large tattooing sites.
- Dye containers are single use.
- Appropriate skin/wound care products are recommended for tattoo and body-piercing aftercare.
- Single-use containers or tubes of lotion are used.
- If not using single-use pots (e.g., Vaseline), disposable spatulas are single use and not re-dipped into pots.
- Disposable single-use cannulas are used for inserting body-piercing jewellery.
- All body jewellery has been decontaminated and sterilised before use.
- Single-use items (e.g., disposable toothpicks) are used to mark the skin for piercing.
- Alcohol-impregnated single-use swabs are used for skin preparation (70% isopropyl alcohol or 0.5% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol).
- Appropriate sterile, in-date dressings are used for body piercing.
- Trigger spray bottles are *not* used to hold skin preparation or disinfection products.

Plastic film wrap used to cover tattoos is clean, taken straight from the pack, and secured with hypoallergenic tape.

Piercing Gun:

- Brand name and details (Caflon/Studex)
- Single use packets
- Cleansing procedure – follow manufacturer’s instructions

Piercing Needle:

- Sterile single use piercing needle
- Piercing cannula (hollow tube) and insert earring/jewellery

Jewellery:

- Pre-sterilised and pre-packaged
- If clients are allowed to bring their own jewellery – arrangements for sterilisation prior to use
- If salon is supplying and sterilising the jewellery, how is it stored? – Sterilised (eg Autoclave) prior to use

Skin Numbing Products

- Products purchased from reputable sources
- Registered medical practitioner can apply it
- Applied using infection-control method (e.g., single-use bud)
- Client apply and purchase from registered pharmacy

Waste Management

- Waste contract
- Clinical waste contract
- Sharps box appropriate size & in use, with lid that can be closed when not in use
- Sharps box labelled with premises details
- Clinical waste bin has closable lid and is foot operated
- Yellow/black bags used for soft disposables
- Additional bin that it large enough to cope with type of waste
- Secure storage for clinical waste

Needles/Blades

- Needles/blades sealed & sterile
- Reputable supplier - Packaging checked for supplier & expiry dates

Cleanliness & Disinfection

- Cleaning including antibacterial spray
- Clinell wipes are recommended for cleaning, especially hand pieces.
- Cleanliness procedure in place
- Refilling spray bottles avoided

Client Safety Procedures

- Patch testing policy in place
- New clients patch tested
- Client records include contra-indication checks
- Positive medical conditions trigger further assessment

Cleansing procedure of skin:

- 70% alcohol wipes/70% isopropyl alcohol

PPE:

- Gloves, correct sizes, non-latex
- Single use disposable aprons

Minimum Age

- Policy on piercing under-age (<18), parental consent, legally no minimum age
- Genital or nipple piercing over 18 years

Aftercare

- Written aftercare advice provided
- Client has acknowledged receipt

Needlestick Injury Procedure

- Operator aware of correct procedure
- Procedure displayed/included in training pack
- Vaccination recommendation – Tetanus
- Vaccination recommendation – Hepatitis B

First Aid/anaphylaxis

- Staff are trained to manage

Documentation Checklist

- Professional and Public Liability Insurance
- General waste and Clinical Waste Contract
- Training Certificates
- Supplier Handpiece/CE mark

- Sample Client Record Card – personal details requested; all conditions covered with a “cover all”/“anything else” to notify practitioner
- Copy of Aftercare Advice – online/text and/or paper copies