

**A safe tattoo artist or piercer will:**

- Have an autoclave (a machine used to sterilize equipment) or will use pre-sterilized single-use tools.
- Always open needle packages in front of the client.
- Wash their hands and put on non-latex gloves before the procedure, after taking breaks or switching tasks.
- Use an antiseptic on the client's skin prior to a procedure and after completion.
- Put new ink in disposable ink cups for each customer.
- Use a single-use marking tool on your skin.
- Use new, disposable razors for shaving skin.
- Use new, sterilized jewelry for any body piercing. The sterile package should be opened or autoclaved in front of the client.
- Verbally discuss aftercare procedures and send you home with written aftercare instructions.
- Be willing to discuss safety and answer any questions.



This pamphlet is not a substitute for professional medical care. If you have medical questions or concerns, please speak with a healthcare provider.

To submit a complaint, report adverse reactions to a body art procedure, or ask a question about the license status of a body art facility please call Environmental Health & Food Safety at 406.444.2837

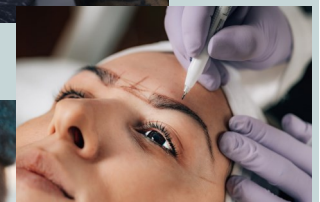
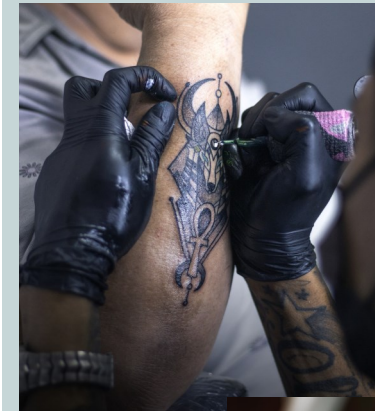
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Environmental Health &  
Food Safety  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

## **Body Art: Choosing Your Artist & Facility**

Piercings, Tattoos, &  
Permanent Cosmetics



DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

### A sample Body Art Establishment License.

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
2024	***	BODY ART, TATTOOING	***
COUNTY #5		<b>2024 LICENSE</b>	LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
LICENSEE (OPERATOR) MAILING ADDRESS		ESTABLISHMENT LOCATION ADDRESS	
JANE DOE MANAGEMENT 555 TATTOO ST HELENA, MT 59602		TATTOO STUDIO 555 5 <sup>TH</sup> ST S HELENA, MT 59602	
YEAR	FEE RECEIVED	CATEGORY	LICENSE NO.
2024	\$135.00	BODY ART, TATTOOING	555555
DATE ISSUED:			DATE EXPIRES:
01/01/2024			12/31/2024
LICENSE TYPES	LICENSE SUB-TYPES	UNITS	
TATTOOING			
<b>NON-TRANSFERRABLE</b>			
<small>Issued by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Environmental Health and Food Safety PO Box 202951 Helena, MT 59620-2951</small>			
APPROVED: HEALTH OFFICIAL VALIDATION			
Local Health Authority		County	
THIS LICENSE MUST BE PLAINLY DISPLAYED IN YOUR PLACE OF BUSINESS			

If you are thinking about getting a body art procedure, you're not alone! Over 145 million Americans have tattoos or piercings.

**With so many people getting tattoos and piercings, it must be safe—right?**

When a tattoo or piercing is done following proven safety precautions, the risk of disease or infection is very low.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services issues licenses to body art facilities across the state. County Sanitarians conduct annual inspections to determine compliance with safety precautions and regulations.

Use this document to ensure your chosen facility and artist follows safety precautions and will provide you with safe and high-quality body art.

## Choosing a Facility

First things first, where are you going to get your procedure done? A body art procedure should never be done in someone's home, at a party, or outdoors. Only get a procedure in a licensed body art facility or at a permitted temporary event, such as a body art expo.

### What do I look for in a body art facility?

- The facility and staff should be noticeably clean and professional.
- The waiting area should be separated from the procedure areas by a barrier.
- Look for a license. Licenses should be posted in plain view.
- Tools and supplies used should be kept in covered containers, cupboards, or tool boxes.

## Your Body Artist

### If I ask questions, will my artist think I don't trust them?

No. Any reputable body artist should be willing to talk about safety, their processes and the procedure. If they aren't willing to answer your questions, consider not moving forward with the procedure. You should feel comfortable with your artist and their process.

- Ask the artist questions about the procedure and safety precautions.
- Look for certificates of training. Bloodborne Pathogen training is required every year, First Aid is done every two years.

## Health Risks

### Are there health risks with a tattoo or piercing?

Yes. Because a piercing or tattoo breaks the protective barrier of the skin, it does have health risks, including the potential to transmit an infection or a bloodborne disease including MRSA, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

### Trust your instincts.

Your instincts are a tool and you should listen to them when selecting a body artist and facility. Don't attempt to have a body art procedure while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, don't act impulsively, and don't be drawn in by a low price.

Tattoos, and other forms of body art, are permanent. Removal is difficult, expensive, and sometimes only partially effective. Go with your gut, don't feel pressured, and be picky about your body art.

