

What You Need to Know About Tattoo Removal

Tattoos can be a fun and exciting form of self-expression, making it no surprise that [nearly a third](#) of all Americans have at least one tattoo. Unfortunately, not all of these tattoos age well, and as many as [25% of tattooed Americans](#) regret getting one or more of their tattoos. While a tattoo may seem like a good idea at first, the sad reality is that not all tattoos stand the test of time, and a tattoo you once loved may no longer suit you and may now seem out-of-date, annoying, or even embarrassing.

Whether you got a new job that doesn't allow tattoos, or you have a tattoo representing a relationship you're no longer in, the good news is that you have options for tattoo removal. Laser tattoo removal is the most effective method for eliminating unwanted ink, as the laser helps break up the pigment in your skin with a high-intensity light beam, allowing your immune system to process and remove the ink. This causes your tattoo to fade over time, and it may even disappear altogether after a few laser treatments.

Yet, if you're considering laser tattoo removal, you might have a few questions and concerns about how the process works. If you're worried about the cost, potential pain, or how long treatments will take, we're here to answer your questions and put your mind at ease. To help you decide whether this procedure is right for you, keep reading as we answer some of the most commonly asked questions we receive about laser tattoo removal.

How Long Does an Appointment Take?

You've likely got a busy schedule, and you may find yourself wondering how long laser tattoo removal takes. The important thing to remember is that tattoo removal is not instant, and it will take multiple sessions for the tattoo to fade fully. Fortunately, these sessions are pretty quick, lasting 5-10 minutes on average. Of course, the length of a session will depend on how big the tattoo is, as a small tattoo might only take a couple of minutes, while a larger tattoo may require longer sessions of up to 20 minutes or more. Ultimately, you should plan to block off an hour of your day for each appointment, as you will need to factor in time for checking in, talking to the doctor before the procedure, preparation such as cleaning and numbing the site, the actual procedure, and post-treatment care.

How Many Sessions Are Needed?

Many people assume that laser tattoo removal is instant, and that their tattoo will fade or disappear fully after one session. However, the fact is that while laser treatments are

considered the most reliable tattoo removal option, this process does take time, as multiple sessions will be needed.

So, how many sessions will it take to remove your tattoo? This will depend on a variety of factors, including the color and complexity of your tattoo, as well as how your body responds to the treatment. Laser treatments affect everyone differently, and it can take anywhere from 5-10 treatment sessions to see full results.

Additionally, you will have to wait 6-10 weeks between treatments, as this will give your skin time to absorb the ink and heal before your next session. This makes it important that you're patient during this process, as even simple tattoos can take up to a year to remove, with more complicated tattoos taking as long as two years. However, the end result will be worth it, as you will slowly see your tattoo fade and disappear with each treatment.

How Painful is Laser Tattoo Removal?

One of the biggest concerns patients have when starting the tattoo removal process is whether it will hurt. While tattoo removal can hurt, whether or not the treatment will be painful for you depends on your pain tolerance. Just like with getting a tattoo, everyone's experience with the laser is different. While some people consider the tattoo removal process to be less painful than getting a tattoo, others say the pain is similar or worse.

If you're worried about potential pain during tattoo removal, this is something you should talk to your doctor about before the procedure. While your doctor will take steps to make you as comfortable as possible during the procedure, such as by using topical or injection numbing medication, they can also suggest painkillers you can take before and after treatment to further reduce pain. They will also review steps that you can take to combat pain and swelling following the procedure, such as applying ice packs and properly treating blisters or scabs that form.

How Much Does Tattoo Removal Cost?

So, how much should you expect to spend to remove a tattoo? The cost of a tattoo removal session can range from \$400 to \$800 and will vary depending on the size, color, and age of your tattoo. According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the average cost for a laser skin treatment is [\\$697 per session](#). While this may come as a surprise, the price is worth it to restore the appearance of your skin and remove a tattoo that has been bugging you once and for all.

Schedule a Free In-Person Consultation

Deciding to get a tattoo you once loved removed is a major decision, and it's not something you should feel the need to rush into. Take the time to research surgeons in your area, and schedule a consultation to learn more about the process of laser tattoo removal.

If you live in Albuquerque, NM, consider contacting [redacted] to schedule a free in-person consultation. At [redacted], we prioritize our patients' comfort, satisfaction, and safety, and we can go over your treatment options with you and help answer any lingering questions you may have. Once you decide to work with us, we can design a personal treatment plan for you to help you finally reclaim the appearance of your skin.