

| fact sheet |

PICO LASER TATTOO REMOVAL



What is picosecond laser tattoo removal?

Picosecond lasers use higher-energy and ultrashort pulses (one trillionth of a second) of visible and invisible light to quickly and more efficiently remove tattoo pigment with less healing time and fewer treatments than older lasers. We use the Cynosure PicoSure 755nm red-light and the Quanta dual-wavelength (532 & 1064nm) Discovery Pico lasers. When the tattoo pigment is treated with a “pico” laser, it breaks the pigment into smaller fragments that the body’s immune system is then more easily able to remove. This process results in better fading of the tattoo with each treatment.

What kinds of tattoos can be treated with laser tattoo removal?

Pico laser can remove many professional and amateur tattoos as well as cosmetic tattoos such as lip liner, eyeliner, or eyebrow tattoos.

How well does the process work?

Pico laser tattoo removal is currently the best available laser tattoo removal method. Successful removal of each tattoo varies with the type of tattoo, the color of the ink, the density of the pigment, the size and depth of the tattoo, and the body’s reaction to the treatment. Tattoos that are partially faded, older, homemade, and those that consist of only black ink, and located closest to the mid-body areas are the easiest to remove.

Multi-colored tattoos, especially those with yellow, purple, or brighter colors may be more difficult to remove and may require treatment with our Ruby, Fotona QX Max or Versapulse lasers that use nanosecond pulses of light that will be more effective for certain colors of tattoo ink. At the Gateway Aesthetic Institute, we have six tattoo-specific lasers with every available

wavelength and color of laser light currently being manufactured. Unlike many other tattoo removal clinics, where only one tattoo removal laser may be available, we have every possible option.

What are the side effects to laser tattoo removal?

The most common problem with laser tattoo removal is incomplete removal which leaves a shadow of the tattoo (most common in multi-colored tattoos). Another risk is a residual change in the skin pigmentation. The skin in the treated area may end up lighter or darker than the skin adjacent. This is most common in people who have dark skin tones and in those who have exposed the treated area to the sun. Scarring is uncommon, but may rarely occur. You will be given specific post treatment care instructions which you should follow after each treatment to minimize the possibility of infection or other complications.

How many treatments does it take to remove a tattoo?

Tattoos come in many different varieties. Superficial homemade tattoos may completely disappear in 2 or 3 treatments. Larger multicolored tattoos are more complicated and will often require more treatments. You can be assured that with our state-of-the-art tattoo removal lasers and over 27 years of experience performing laser tattoo removal, we will be able to get rid of your tattoo in the fewest number of treatments possible.

How is laser tattoo removal performed?

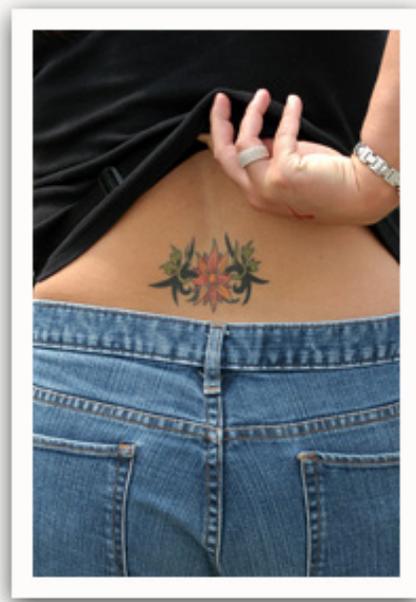
We use topical, local or tumescent anesthesia to make tattoo treatments comfortable. The eyes are covered with eye shields to protect them from the laser light. The laser with the correct wavelength, pulse duration and color of light is chosen specifically for each tattoo ink color. Small and medium sized tattoos take from a few seconds to a few minutes for each treatment. Larger or multiple tattoos will require a longer treatment time. Cost is based on the total laser treatment time required and the extent of anesthesia necessary to comfortably complete the treatment.

What happens after the treatment?

Immediately following treatment, the tattoo will have a whitish or red appearance and develop some swelling, or pinpoint bruising. Antibiotic ointment and a bandage are applied to the treated area following your treatment session. Healing will usually take a few weeks. Tattoos on areas with poor circulation, such as those on wrists, ankles, hands and feet may require a longer healing time in between treatments. During the healing process, gentle cleansing of the area, protection from the sun and continued application of antibiotic/healing ointment or a waterproof biologic dressing is recommended.

Is laser tattoo removal safe for pregnant women?

No. Just as getting a tattoo during pregnancy is discouraged, so is laser tattoo removal. Laser tattoo removal breaks up ink particles that are then processed by the immune system. It is not known if this could adversely affect the fetus, so we do not recommend laser tattoo removal in pregnant women. Anesthesia used during laser tattoo removal treatments could also potentially have adverse effects on a pregnant woman or the fetus.



How do I know if my tattoo can be treated?

Call Gateway Aesthetic Institute & Laser Center at (801) 595-1600 to schedule a free consultation.

We are located at the south end of the Gateway Mall in Salt Lake City at 440 West 200 South, Suite 250, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.