



Tattoo Artist permitting information

Application

The Tattoo artist permit application can be completed either in the Environmental Health office located at 414 East Main St. 2nd floor, Durham, NC, 2770, by email healthinspector@dconc.gov Payment can be made over the phone with a credit card by calling 919-560-7800.

Durham County Tattoo Application:

<http://dcopublichealth.org/services/environmental-health/forms-applications>

Durham County Temporary Tattoo application

Issued with a defined expiration date for less than one year. Intended for short term use where all other Tattoo rules apply.

The assigned inspector will schedule an appointment for an inspection and permitting. The tattoo business must be set up and ready for customers. All supplies and machines must be in place. Tattoo artists must be able to answer questions regarding Tattooing procedures and NC Tattoo Rules.

NC Tattoo Rules: <http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/faf/pti/tattoos.htm>

Building

- The location must be zoned for business/commercial, not residential.
- It is recommended that a lease is not signed until the space is approved by City / County zoning at City Hall 919-560-1200.

Room

- There must be at least one hand sink per every 5 artists.
- The hand sink must be accessible without having to open a door with your hands.
- The hand sink is for the artists use only.
- The hand sink must have hot and cold water with soap and towels provided.
- A hair / shampoo sink may not be used for hand washing.
- Floors/Walls/Ceiling must be smooth and easy to clean. No carpet.
- All wood floors must be sealed.
- Furnishings must be easy to clean, kept clean and maintained in good repair.





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Supplies - This list is not all-inclusive and items marked § are recommended

1. Customer consent forms (including name, address, phone number, date of birth, signature) and shall be kept available for health department review for 2 years.
2. Disposable gloves
3. Individual disposable towels
4. Apron or lap cloth
5. Inks / pigments
6. Tattoo machine
7. Individually packaged sterile needles
8. Individually packaged sterile stainless tubes or disposable tubes
9. Disposable razor
10. Ink caps
11. Biohazard / Sharps container
12. Rubber bands§
13. Grommets
14. Clip cord covers
15. Approved Multi-Surface Disinfectant such as Cavi Wipes, Sani-Cloths or Medacide, etc. §
16. 70% Isopropyl Alcohol as a Germicidal solution
17. Steam Autoclave with Negative autoclave test result (when not using all disposable equipment)
18. Nail Brush and file or orange stick for each artist
19. Sterile bandages
20. Medical bandage tape, anti-bacterial ointment §
21. All inks, stencil paper, and other supplies must be stored in containers/cabinets to prevent cross-contamination.
22. Aftercare instructions handout. §





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General Tattooing information

Age restriction – Individuals under the age of 18 are not allowed to be tattooed per Criminal Law in North Carolina under General Statute 14-400.

Removal problems – Despite advances in laser technology, removing a tattoo is a painstaking process, usually involving several treatments and considerable expense. Complete removal without scarring may be impossible.

Allergic reactions – Although allergic reactions are rare, when they do happen they may be particularly troublesome because the pigments can be hard to remove. Occasionally, people may develop an allergic reaction to tattoos they have had for years.

Keloid formation – If you are prone to developing keloids – scars that grow beyond normal boundaries – you are at risk of keloid formation from a tattoo.

MRI complications – There are reports of people with tattoos or permanent makeup who experienced swelling or burning in the affected areas when they underwent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This seems to appear only rarely and apparently without lasting effects. Individuals with tattoos or permanent makeup should inform the radiologist or technician of this fact in order to take appropriate precautions, avoid complications and ensure the best results.

Body piercing - There are no public health laws or regulations on body piercing at this time in North Carolina. A law does exist on age requirements for piercing and is enforced by local law enforcement agencies (N.C. General Statute 14-400).

Microblading / cosmetic tattooing – Microblading will be allowed in an esthetician's room. There should be separate and distinct work stations. A partition or room divider will be allowed to separate the two stations. The partition or room divider must be smooth and easy to clean and kept in place at all times that procedures are being performed. (Fabric or cloth will not be acceptable) Each station should have separate patron chairs, seats and equipment. All microblading supplies must be kept covered and protected. The esthetician will be allowed to work both sides of the room. The micro blading / permanent make up station is disinfected before each use. At least one hand sink is required for the room used for esthetician and micro blading. Hand sinks will be the only type of sink allowed for hand washing in these rooms.

