

Think Before You Ink

Why are we concerned about tattoos?

Tattoos are more common than ever, with nearly 40% of people under age 35 getting inked. The risks of transmitting infectious diseases, like Hepatitis B/C, has been known for some time, however, there are also concerns about tattoo ink-related chemical exposures.



What should I know before getting a tattoo?

- Make sure the tattoo parlor and artist follow state/local regulations.
- Tattoo inks comprise a mixture of chemicals and may contain hazardous substances that are known or suspected to cause cancer, genetic mutations, toxic effects on reproduction and allergies.
- The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) does not regulate ingredients in tattoo ink and there are no known safe tattoo inks.

Do tattoos cause any health issues?

The chemical mixture in tattoo ink is intended to stay in the body for life, increasing the risk of long-term exposure to potentially harmful ingredients. These chemicals may cause adverse health effects, but little is known about the consequences of their use. The ink also migrates beyond the site of placement, such as to the lymph nodes, which also carries unknown health risks.

What should I do if I get a reaction from a tattoo?

Contact your healthcare provider for a medical evaluation and together, report your concerns to the FDA. You should also notify the tattoo artist and try to obtain any information, including the brand of the ink used.

For more information: www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/think-you-ink-are-tattoos-safe



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