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# Tattoo hygiene rating scheme

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Blackpool Council have re-launched the 'Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme'.

All tattoo studios within the town will receive an inspection, assessing them against a set criteria, and awarding a tattoo hygiene rating. The scheme is to allow potential clients to make an informed choice of where they go to get a tattoo, and to drive up standards within the industry.

This ratings range from 1 'needs improvement' to 4 'very good'.

## Tattoo hygiene rating scheme criteria

Rating	Category	Minimum requirement
1	Needs improvement	Standards falling below standards in 2 Hand hygiene Protective clothing, cleansing and sterilisation of instruments, needles, equipment and premise
2	Satisfactory	Client record keeping regime in place and maintained
3	Good	Client age verification Signed consent form required Record keeping regime relating to ink batch numbers used on each client in place and maintained After care advice provided
4	Very good	Demonstration of excellent skills Programme of staff training (tattoo related, health and safety, infection control etc) Staff vaccination and health screening programme

## Rating progression

- Rating 1 – failure to satisfy the requirements of rating 2
- Rating 2 – must satisfy **all** of the requirements
- Rating 3 - must satisfy **all** of rating 2 and all of rating 3
- Rating 4 – must satisfy **all** of rating 3 and all of rating 4 conditions

## Achieving a 4 rating

To achieve the highest tattoo hygiene rating of 4, tattoo studios will be assessed on the following criteria.

This list highlights the main areas but is not exhaustive

### Cleanliness of premises and fittings

- The premises is clean and tidy with an effective cleaning schedule in place

- Walls, doors, windows and floors are in good repair and condition
- Correct use of single use paper sheets/plastic wrap
- Foot pedal bins and sharps bins in use, with correct disposal arrangements
- Impervious surfaces that can be cleaned and disinfected after use

## Treatment area

- The clinical treatment area is physically distinct from non-clinical areas
- Area is clean and tidy

## Cleansing and sterilization of instruments, needles, equipment

- Single use needles, razors and any other sharp instruments
- Single use ink pots and spatulas
- Appropriate disinfectants used at the correct dilution
- Sterilisation of equipment such as autoclaves are maintained in accordance with the manufacturers guidelines
- General purpose sink with a constant supply of hot and cold water
- Sterile products are stored appropriately

## Record keeping

- Records of clients receiving a tattoo, ID/age verification checks, health assessments
- Client consent forms
- Records of brand and batch number of ink used

## Cleanliness and personal hygiene of operators

- Good hand washing practices – hot water, soap and towels available at an allocated hand washbasin
- No eating, drinking or smoking in treatment area
- Correct use of PPE (allergy awareness for latex)
- Clean nails/no varnish
- Watches and large rings removed

## Member of a trade or professional body

- Tattoo and piercing industry union

## Vaccination against Hepatitis B

- Arrangements in place to encourage all staff to be vaccinated

## Training

- Training specific to the trade of tattooing
- Examples could include:
  - Infection prevention and control
  - Control of substances hazardous to health
  - First aid/accident book

## Health and safety

- Infection control

If you are an upcoming tattooist you need to [apply to the council to be registered for body treatments](#). Registration is made under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982, Part VIII Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (legislation.gov.uk)

## Additional information

Tattoo hygiene rating scheme inspection aide-memoire

Acupuncture, skin piercing and tattooing

Blackpool Council tattoo rating scheme rated premises

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