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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

[Blackpool Council tattoo rating scheme rules](#)

[Tattoo hygiene rating scheme inspection aide-memoire](#)

[Acupuncture, skin piercing and tattooing](#)

[Blackpool Council tattoo rating scheme rated premises](#)

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