

Always use a

licensed

tattoo artist

at a licensed

facility.



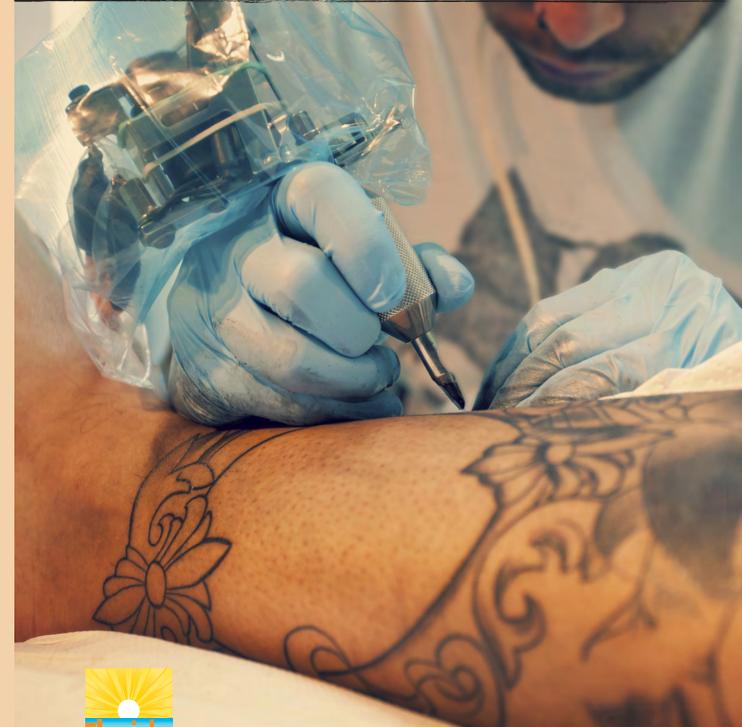
Avoid tattoo parties.



This information has been provided by
the Florida Department of Health in
Escambia County.

To report unlicensed activity, contact:

Division of Environmental Health
1300 West Gregory Street
Pensacola, FL 32502
850-595-6700
www.EscambiaHealth.com



**Is your
tattoo artist
licensed
to ink?**

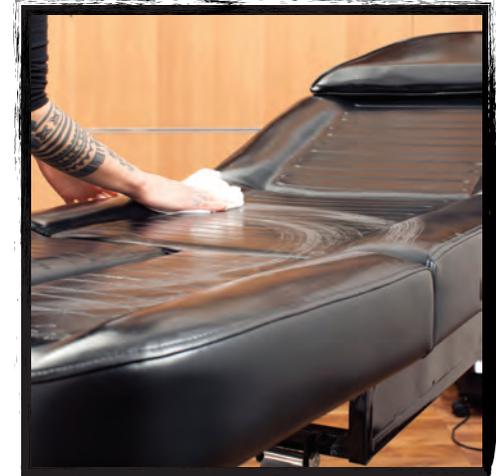


What are some of the risks for getting a tattoo in an unsafe and unlicensed facility--or just in general?

- HIV/AIDS
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C
- Tetanus
- Herpes Simplex Virus
- Staph
- MRSA
- Nontuberculosis Mycobacterium
- Other skin infections
- Allergic reactions

What should I look for in a tattoo establishment to ensure I am in a safe and trustworthy environment?

- A clean shop is a good sign that the tattoo artist or body piercer follows good infection control practices.
- Licenses on the wall should be in plain sight for the establishment and each tattoo artist.
- Make sure that every needle, or other device that will penetrate the skin, is unused and taken out of a sterile, individually-wrapped package.
- Make sure the tattoo artist wears gloves during the tattoo procedure. The artist must change his or her gloves anytime they become torn, punctured, or otherwise contaminated or if he or she leaves and re-enters the tattoo area.
- Tattoo ink should be single-use and not re-used on customers.



What can I do to protect myself?

- Talk to your tattoo artist before getting a tattoo. Ask questions about their procedure and the equipment. A good artist will show pride in his profession and take the time to explain his tattoo and sterilization procedures.
- Ask questions during your appointment and observe your surroundings.
- Provide full disclosure of any illness or medical conditions you have, as well as any medications you are currently taking.
- Follow the aftercare instructions. Keep your tattoo clean at all times.
- Consult medical care if an allergic reaction and/or infection occurs. Signs of a possible infection include: excessive soreness, tenderness, redness, drainage, swelling, or pain at tattoo site.