

Information for Prospective Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments

Applicable Codes:

[Chapter SPS 221 Tattoo and Body-Piercing](#)
[Madison General Ordinance 7.15 Regulation of Tattooing and Body-Piercing](#)
[Chapter NR 526 Medical Waste Management](#)
[Dane County Ordinance Chapter 48 Regulation of Tattooing and Body-Piercing](#)

Licenses Required

1. Establishment License Applications and Fee Payment - contact your health inspector at 242-6515 or email health@publichealthmdc.com
2. Practitioner License - [Application Form for Tattooist / Body Piercer](#)
Department of Safety and Professional Services
1400 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703
FAX: 608-261-7083
Phone: 608-266-2112
E-Mail: dsps@wisconsin.gov
Website: <http://dsps.wi.gov>

General Requirements

- Provide consent forms to patrons
- Post a sign in a conspicuous place stating:
 - No person under 18 may be tattooed
 - No person under 16 may be body pierced
 - No person 16-17 may be body pierced unless legal guardian signs informed consent
- Keep records of all patrons for 2 years from completion of procedure
- No person may be tattooed or pierced who is under the influence or evident skin lesions or infections or visible at tattoo or piercing site
- Ear piercing is not considered body piercing and there is no age restriction for ear piercing

Facility

- Walls & Ceiling: smooth, light colored, and easily cleanable. Acoustical ceiling tiles are prohibited in the procedure area.
- Lighting: 50 foot-candles
- Tattoo area separate from living areas
- A direct outside entrance to the tattoo establishment shall be provided
- A public toilet and hand washing facility
- Hot and cold water soap & paper toweling at hand wash sink
- Easily cleanable waste containers

Facility (continued)

- Sharps waste shall be disposed of accordingly
- Hand wash sink located conveniently to tattoo or body piercing area
- Equipment shall be stored in closed cabinets
- A privacy barrier shall be provided for patrons
- Smoking and eating prohibited in area of procedure
- No animals allowed in establishment

Personnel

- All personnel shall post their Practitioner License on premise
- All artists shall perform and maintain themselves in a hygienic manner
- Tattooists shall use single use plastic covers to cover spray bottles or other reusable accessories.
- Disposable razors shall be used or electric razor screens disinfected between uses
- Body piercing needles shall be disposable, sterile and single patron use only; tattoo needles may be reused if sterilized and stored in an approved manner

Equipment

- Inks and pigments shall be obtained from safe sources
- Ink and pigment cups shall be sterile and single use
- Acetate tattoo stencils shall be single use
- Autoclave must meet FDA approval, contact Public Health-Madison & Dane Co. regarding acceptability of specific autoclaves. If using all disposable equipment, discuss with inspector about submitting a variance application to the State.

Cleaning and Sterilizing

- Equipment requiring sterilization shall be pressure sterilized at the establishment in an autoclave
- Spore tests shall be done monthly and records kept for 1 year
- Facilities using all disposable procedure equipment are not required to have an autoclave. A variance application to the State is required
- Cleaning the patron's skin shall be done with an antiseptic cleaner
- Care and Instruction shall be provided in two manners, orally and written