

## 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](#)

[Dane County Ordinance Chapter 48 Regulation of Tattooing and Body-Piercing](#)

[Chapter NR 526 Medical Waste Management](#)

### Licenses Required

1. Establishment License Applications and Fee Payment - contact your health inspector at (608) 242-6515 or email [leadadmin@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:leadadmin@publichealthmdc.com)
2. Practitioner License - [Application Form for Tattooist / Body Piercer](#)  
Department of Safety and Professional Services  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705  
Phone: 608-266-2112  
FAX: 608-261-7083  
E-Mail: [dsps@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dsps@wisconsin.gov)  
Website: <http://dsps.wi.gov>

### General Requirements

- Provide consent forms to patrons
  - [3203](#) Informed Consent to Body Pierce
  - [3204](#) Informed Consent to Tattoo
- 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 with evident skin lesions or infections 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.
- A public restroom with hand washing sink must be available
- Hand wash sink or sinks, located conveniently to tattoo and/or body piercing area with hot and cold water, antibacterial soap & paper toweling
- Equipment and inks shall be stored in closed cabinets
- A privacy barrier shall be provided for patrons
- No animals allowed in establishment

## Personnel

- All personnel shall post their Practitioner License on premise
- All artists shall perform procedures and maintain themselves in a hygienic manner; long hair tied back or under a hat, no jewelry / watches worn during tattoo/piercing procedures
- Smoking and eating prohibited in area of procedure

## Equipment

- Inks and pigments shall be obtained from safe sources
- Ink and pigment cups shall be single use
- 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.
- Tattooists shall use single use plastic covers or an equivalent to cover procedure chairs/arm rests, spray bottles and 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
- Sharps waste shall be stored in an approved container and disposed of accordingly

Here are links to sharps collection sites in Wisconsin:

- [wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/sharpscollectorsite/](https://wisconsindnr.shinyapps.io/sharpscollectorsite/)
- [safeneedledisposal.org/](https://safeneedledisposal.org/)

## Cleaning and Sterilizing

- Facilities using all disposable procedure equipment are not required to have an autoclave. A variance application to the State is required
- Equipment requiring sterilization shall be pressure sterilized at the establishment in an autoclave
- Spore tests of the autoclave shall be done monthly and records kept for 1 year
- Patron's skin shall be cleaned followed by application of an antiseptic
- Care and Instruction shall be provided to each patron verbally and in written form