

**Important things to look for when choosing a tattoo or piercing facility:**

Is the tattooing/piercing area separate from all dining, washroom, kitchen, lounge or sleeping areas?

Is the facility clean and in good repair, with smooth washable equipment and surfaces?

Does the facility have suitable equipment for sterilization, including an autoclave for reusable items?

If no, does the facility only use single use disposable equipment?

Is the tattoo equipment wrapped in plastic, and is the plastic changed after every client?

Does the facility have proper containers for the safe disposal of needles?

Are all linens etc. changed after every client?

Does staff wash hands thoroughly with soap and water at a separate dedicated hand washing sink before & after each client?

Does staff wear disposable gloves that are changed between every client?

Does staff wear clean clothing?

Does staff refrain from smoking, drinking and eating in the tattooing/piercing area?

Does the facility require you to sign a consent form prior to tattooing/piercing?

Does the facility provide pre and post-care instructions?

Does the facility require your contact information for their records?

Can the facility provide you with a copy of the most recent Health Inspection Report?

**AHS has ordered the following Calgary-area tattoo/piercing operations to close:**

1. Dustin Blatz Tattooing
2. Grave Marking Tattoo
3. Latino Tattoo Removal (*NOT approved tattoo facility; approved for esthetics only, as of Feb. 2nd 2010*)
4. Norm's Tattoos
5. Outlaw Tattoo (*has since remediated concerns and received approval to reopen, effective Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010*)
6. Piercer Dan
7. Tattoo Girl

All closure orders issued by AHS-Calgary are posted online at:

[www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/publichealth/envhealth/healthinspections.htm](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/publichealth/envhealth/healthinspections.htm).

**NOTE** – anyone who has received a tattoo, piercing or other invasive procedure at a home-based or mobile facility (whether named above or not) should call HealthLink Alberta to arrange for testing.