

TATTOO & BODY PIERCING

All Dane County Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments must be licensed and inspected to make sure they meet all requirements of Wisconsin law related to general public health.



Licenses Required

You must get the following licenses:

- Establishment License
- Practitioner License

You can find links to apply and pay for licenses on our website: publichealthmdc.com/licensing. If you have questions, please contact your health inspector at 608-242-6515, or email leadadmin@publichealthmdc.com.

General Requirements

- Provide consent forms to patrons
 - [Informed Consent to Body Pierce](#)
 - [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
 - Has evident skin lesions or infections visible at tattoo or piercing site
- Ear piercing is not considered body piercing. There is no age restriction for ear piercing.

Facility Requirements

- The walls & ceiling must be smooth, light colored, and easy to clean. Acoustical ceiling tiles are prohibited in the procedure area.
- A public restroom with a hand washing sink must be available
- Hand wash sinks must be located conveniently to tattoo and/or body piercing areas. They must have hot and cold water, antibacterial soap & paper toweling.
- Equipment and inks must be stored in closed cabinets.
- A privacy barrier must be provided for patrons
- No animals, except for service animals, allowed in establishment.

Personnel Requirements

- All personnel must post their Practitioner License on premise
- All artists must perform procedures and maintain themselves in a hygienic manner:
- Long hair tied back or under a hat
- No jewelry or watches worn during tattoo and piercing procedures
- Smoking and eating are prohibited in procedure areas

Equipment Requirements

- Inks and pigments must be obtained from safe sources
- Ink and pigment cups must be single use
- Tattoo stencils must be single use
- Autoclave must meet FDA approval. Contact us about acceptability of specific autoclaves.
- Tattooists must use single use plastic covers or an equivalent to cover:
 - procedure chairs and arm rests
 - spray bottles
 - other reusable accessories
- Disposable razors must be used, or electric razor screens must be disinfected between uses
- Body piercing needles must be disposable, sterile and single patron use only
- Sharps waste must be stored in an approved container and disposed of accordingly
- Sharps collection sites in Wisconsin:
- [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources map of collection stations](#)
- SafeNeedleDisposal.org

Cleaning and Sterilizing Requirements

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

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](#)

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For more resources:
publichealthmdc.com/licensing