

Michigan Department of Community Health
Aftercare Instructions for Branding

Body Art Type: Branding

Approximate Healing Time: 1 month

Supplies Needed: Antibacterial soap

Aftercare Instructions: Clean the branded area twice daily, morning and evening. Use a gentle circular scrubbing motion with your hand or a soft washcloth. Heavy scrubbing may irritate the area causing distortion of the brand. Let the area air-dry or use clean tissue or gauze to blot-dry the area. Don't use your regular bath towel because it can harbor germs that may get into the exposed tissue and cause an infection.

Additional Considerations: During the initial healing phase you may wish to keep the area covered with gauze to prevent the healing fluids from adhering to clothing and bed sheets. If the gauze adheres to the brand, soak the gauze off in the shower or with a clean wet cloth. If you pull the adhered material off the brand, it may distort the shape of the lines. Brands will spread sufficiently without any type of irritation or abrasion.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the body art facility where your branding was performed. In addition, you should seek medical attention if the branding site becomes infected or painful, or if you develop a fever shortly after being branded.