

# TATTOO

## FACT SHEETS

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### Make-up Made Easy

Tattooing can be applied to mimic the appearance of eyebrows, lashes, lipstick and blush. Tattooing is also used to cover up or hide skin spots or de-pigmentation caused by various skin conditions such as vitiligo.



The process of a cosmetic tattoo is the same as a regular tattoo, but it is usually conducted by a cosmetologist or a medical provider that is licensed by a state or county health department. The advantage of getting a tattoo in these settings is that pain medication may be given before the procedure.

Permanent make-up (also called cosmetic tattooing) has been practiced for thousands of years. The Egyptians are probably the most well-known civilization that practiced cosmetic tattooing, but almost every civilization has practiced tattooing and cosmetic tattooing.

Before you decide on a cosmetic tattoo remember that some people are allergic to tattoo ink, and this could lead to scarring of the skin. It would also be wise to have lighter color applied than what you would normally use for make-up—it's easy to add eyeliner, eyebrow pencil or lipstick when or if you want a darker shape.

At first the cosmetic tattoo will resemble any tattoo—brighter colors, and some swelling and skin shedding will occur. After a while the swelling will go down and the true color will emerge.

The same care should be taken with a cosmetic tattoo as with any tattoo to prevent infection. It is even more important to avoid scratching, picking or rubbing that could potentially result in infection or scarring—it is very difficult to fix a cosmetic tattoo that doesn't heal well or scars. The only options are laser removal, surgery or using a concealing make-up.

