

# SKIN & LASER SURGERY CENTER, PC

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*Diplomates, American Board of Dermatology  
Adult & Pediatric Dermatology • Laser Cutaneous Surgery • Dermatologic Surgery  
MOHS Micrographic Surgery*

## **Tattoo Removal**

Lately, the decision to obtain a tattoo has become increasingly popular, and so has the decision to remove them! An estimated 20 million Americans have tattoos and many of them now feel that having a tattoo does not fit their new image. Those remorseful about their tattoos are consulting with cosmetic laser physicians to determine if the removal of their tattoo is possible. Today's advanced laser technology provides the means for your tattoo to be removed safely and quickly and, in most cases, without leaving a scar.

### **How does treatment work?**

Today, cosmetic medical lasers designed to eradicate tattoos range from a single wavelength of light to a broad spectrum of light, the varieties of which are intended to obliterate the ink in the tattoo without damaging the skin. Certain colors of light are absorbed by specific corresponding colors of the tattoo ink. The light energy vaporizes or fragments the ink particles. Your body then absorbs these ink fragments naturally and the color fades over the next couple of weeks. This treatment is very similar to the methods used for years to treat birthmarks.

### **What are other removal options?**

Laser tattoo removal is the safest, quickest and most likely to leave your skin intact following treatment. Other treatment options are surgical excision, chemical peel and traditional dermabrasion. These various treatment options are invasive treatment methods and often result in scarring.

### **What are treatments like?**

First, the area to be treated is cleaned. Emitting laser or pulsed light, the laser hand device glides over the surface of the tattoo. The size and color of the tattoo determine the length of treatment time. A tattoo roughly the size of a quarter may take approximately 3 to 5 minutes to treat. Some patients request a topical anesthetic cream to be applied prior to treatment, minimizing the stinging effect of the laser or intense light. Many patients tolerate treatment without topical anesthetic, and report the treatment as feeling similar to no more than numerous rubber band snaps. Finally, an ointment and protective dressing are applied to keep the area moist.

### **How many treatments are required?**

Size, color, location and the age of the tattoo determine the number of treatments necessary to effectively complete removal. During the consultation, the tattoo you want treated will be examined and any questions you have will be answered. Be sure to contact your physician if you experience side effects not described during your consultation.

### **What results can I expect?**

The results and appearance of the tattoo vary from patient to patient. After each treatment session you will see the tattoo become lighter. Due to the various levels of professionalism and types of inks used in tattooing, the results and number of treatments may vary. Typically, multiple treatments will be required and are scheduled 4 to 8 weeks apart.

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## Directions

To Tysons Corner office location:

8130 Boone Blvd. #340 Tysons Corner, VA 22182; **703-893-1114**

1. From Mclean, Tysons Corner area:

Take International Drive south to Leesburg Pike (Route 7) where it becomes Gallows Road. Make a LEFT turn at the **first** traffic light on Gallows Road after crossing Rt. 7 onto Boone Blvd. Take an **IMMEDIATE** left into the parking lot of our Bldg. 8130 Boone Blvd. #340, Tysons Corner, VA 22182. Our building is behind Jarred Jewelers and McDonalds.

2. From points west of Tysons Corner office location: Reston, Herndon, Leesburg, Sterling, Lansdowne, Loudon County, Clark County, Warren County and Frederick County:

Take 66 East to 495 North or Leesburg Pike East. Our Tysons Office location is off Leesburg Pike (Route 7) and Gallows Road. Make a LEFT turn at the **first** traffic light on Gallows Road after crossing Rt. 7 onto Boone Blvd. Take an **IMMEDIATE** left into the parking lot of our Bldg. 8130 Boone Blvd. #340 Tysons Corner, VA 22182.

To Woodbridge office location:

2200 Opitz Blvd Suite 245 Woodbridge, VA; **703-492-4140**

1. From Prince William County, Manassas, Manassas Park, Woodbridge/Lake Ridge, Dumfries to our Woodbridge location:

We are at 2200 Opitz Blvd Suite 245 Woodbridge, VA, across the street from Potomac Library. One block east (towards Rt. 1) from Potomac Hospital and Wegman's.

To Stafford office location:

125 Hospital Center Boulevard, Suite 313 Stafford, VA 22554

Toll free **1-800-265-2653**

1. Coming from points south of the Stafford office: Stafford, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania County, King George County, Caroline County, Westmoreland County, Northern Neck Region, Richmond County, King and Queen County, Warrenton County, Fauquier County, Orange County, Culpepper County, Essex County, Westmoreland County:

Take I-95 North to exit 140, Turn Right onto Courthouse Road/Route 630 (approximately 1mi.). Take Right onto Route 1 (approximately. 1/2 mi.). Turn Left onto Hospital Center Blvd. At the **THIRD** entrance make a left into the parking lot of the Stafford Medical Pavilion (**Behind Stafford Hospital**).