



Permanent Makeup Salt Removal for Fitzpatrick 1 to 3 & Post Care

After years of trying various pigment removal products, I have never found any product as effective as salt. No product could be more organic and used with the least amount of risk. I have used numerous acid formulations, from glycolic to lactic, etc., and they were effective but had to be neutralized to avoid possible scarring and left the area extremely discolored for some time. Although salt removal will leave the area red, the healing is much faster and even more effective than the acids.

Who are the Candidates for Removal?

Clients that are a Fitzpatrick 1 and 2 are the best candidates for permanent makeup removal. They do not tend to hyper-pigment.

Risks of a Fitzpatrick 3

A Fitzpatrick 3, especially on the deeper side of 3, can hyper-pigment and must be approached with great caution. They can be pre-treated with a melanin inhibitor (dermatologist recommended) for a minimum of 2 weeks prior. Melanin inhibitors must be discontinued following the procedure but then resumed 2 weeks post-procedure. Do not apply the same pressure that you would on a Fitzpatrick 1 and 2. Attempting removal on a small area is advised and a gentle and conservative approach is always necessary.

Fitzpatrick 4 Through 6

Those with this much melanin are not candidates for tattoo removal. The hyper-pigmentation caused will be much worse than the tattoo they wanted removed.

How does Salt Removal Work?

Tattooing the area with salt water creates a hypertonic reaction in the cells that contain the pigment. This reaction allows the salinized water to enter into the cell and simply flushes it out. It is also referred to as an osmotic (osmosis) response.

By tattooing the salinized solution straight (90 degree angle) into the skin with a **3-liner**, the thought process is to tattoo this solution UNDER the pigment, to begin the hypertonic response.

Under-Promise

This procedure may or may not remove **all** traces of pigment but in most cases, the amount of color removed is truly significant. Some black inks that have been ground deeply into the dermis can be a challenge. I tell my clients that in most cases the removal is successful but I cannot promise them this. I would rather lower their expectations and have them pleasantly surprised than promise them complete removal and they are the difficult case.

I will attempt 3 removals and only a third if I see some degree of lightening after the first 2. Otherwise, I will refer them for laser removal.

Laser Removal for Permanent Eyeliner

There are not many laser specialists that are comfortable removing eyeliner due to the risks involved in inserting a shield into the eyes and possible permanent lash loss. I have seen permanent eye-shadow, eyeliner and eyeliner migrations removed successfully by the New York Laser Center in Manhattan. This is always my suggestion.

Most Difficult Removals

The **only** tattoos that I have not seen a difference have been some radiation tattoos. Only proceeding with medical clearance, I have attempted to remove radiation tattoos. Some respond well to the salt removal and some do not.

Prepare Your Client

Your client must be prepared for the residual redness of the salt removal. The area will appear angry and red and they may be a bit shocked when shown the mirror. After a few days, I tell them they can cover the redness with a mineral powder.

Preparation of Procedure

I prepare with a pigment cup **filled to the top with salt**. I have used various types of salt and found they all seem to work with the same efficacy, from regular table salt to sea salt. I am not sure I would use a rock type salt but something finer ground is best.

I now add sterile saline and stir. The **salt will not all melt** but some will. There should be some liquid floating at the top of the pigment cup with the salt at the bottom.

Picking up, only the liquid, I dip into the solution with a 3-Liner and proceed to only use pointillism on the area to be removed. Do not dip deeply into the cup as the salt can stop your needle and damage your hand-piece. Just pick up the liquid. I pass over the area 3-4 times but **do not split the tissue open!!!** This aggression is simply not necessary and can increase any chance of scarring. However, don't be alarmed when you see immediate bleeding. This is normal and part of the process you can expect during a removal.

I also **do not drag the needle through the skin**. I **ONLY** use pointillism.

~ **You will not see color come out during this process**. As it scabs and heals, the color will lift out and fade.

Overworking will only create scar tissue. I am always sure to stop removal before the skin opens up other than seeing needle prick bleeding.

Brows and Lips, ONLY!!!

Once I have passed over the area to be removed 3 to 4 times, I will pull up the salt from the bottom of the pigment cup and pat the paste over the area. Be sure your client is lying back to avoid any salt getting into their eyes. Some burning is to be expected. I allow it to remain for a few minutes, brush off.

That evening and the following 2 days, I ask my client to mix some warm water and salt at home and rub the area with a cotton swab 2 to 3 times a day. This helps the area to continue to purge color without further traumatizing it with tattooing.

Post Treatments:

Eyebrows and Lips

After that, allow the area to heal **DRY** and in 2 to 3 weeks I ask them to send me a photo. Prior to that, the area is too red or pink to see results.

I advise my clients to **not** pick off the scab that forms, as this could create scarring.

I reschedule them for another treatment, if needed, in 4 to 6 weeks.

Eyeliner

My aftercare for this procedure is to **keep it dry, dry, dry!!!** No day creams, no night creams or moisturizers and no tanning; artificially, sun or tanning booth. Tanning will darken the area you are attempting to remove.

Advise your client to not pick off the scab that forms, as this could create scarring. I check on them in 2 to 3 weeks to see the progress. Prior to that, the area may be too pink to see results. I ask them to send me a photo and reschedule them if necessary, in 2 to 3 weeks, since my approach to eyeliner removal is so much more gentle than eyebrows.

Disclaimer:

Rose Marie Beauchemin, of the Beau Institute, has given her process of pigment removal on the face. This process is taught in various classes at Beau Institute and should not be exercised without training.