

Tattoo safety: Something to "th-INK" about



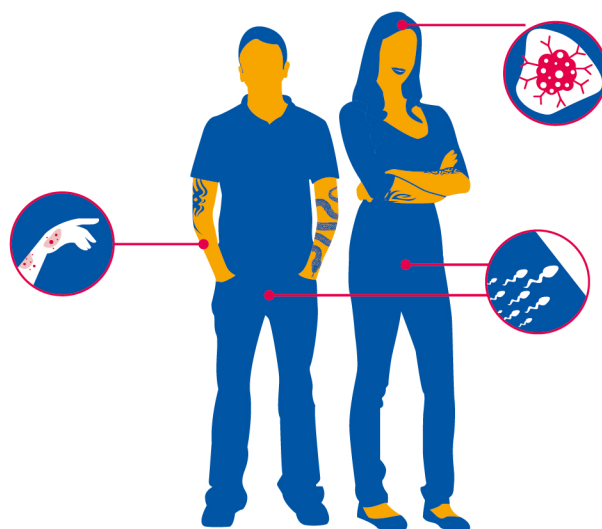
12 % of Europeans have tattoos – with 18-35 year olds twice as likely to have them. Tattoo inks, and permanent make-up such as eyeliner inks, are a mix of several chemicals. These chemicals are injected into our skin, stay in our bodies for a long time and may lead to a long-term exposure to potentially harmful ingredients.

What is the concern?

The inks used in tattooing and permanent make-up may contain hazardous chemicals that cause skin allergies and other more serious health impacts, such as genetic mutations, cancer and reproductive harm.

Adverse effects can appear months or even years after getting the tattoo.

Ink pigments can also migrate from the skin to different organs such as the lymph nodes and liver.



What is the EU doing?

The EU is not banning tattooing but is making the inks safer.

More than 4 000 hazardous chemicals in tattoo inks and permanent make-up will be restricted in the EU/EEA from early 2022.

This action may lead to over 1 000 cases of chronic allergic reactions being avoided every year. Other skin reactions and serious effects are also likely to decrease.

The cost for industry to replace the chemicals is estimated to be €4.6 million per year.



Working to limit the use of hazardous chemicals to protect the environment.

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