BODY ART APPRENTICES & NEW ARTISTS

Your First BBP Certificate

A Quick-Start Guide for New Tattoo Artists, Permanent Makeup Artists, and Piercers.

Start your career with safety practices clients can trust.

What's inside
Why BBP training matters · Choosing the right course · What you'll learn · Professional safety habits · Printable checklist

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GETTING STARTED

Welcome to Body Art

Starting a career in body art is exciting. You're developing your skills, learning from experienced professionals, and preparing to work with real clients.

You're also entering a profession where working safely matters every day.

Because tattooing, piercing, and permanent cosmetics may involve contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials, bloodborne pathogens (BBP) training is an important part of preparing to work professionally.

> **Your BBP certificate may be something you need to begin working—but the real value is what you learn along the way.**

1. Why Do Body Artists Need BBP Training?

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease. Body art procedures can create opportunities for exposure to blood. Artists need to understand how to protect themselves and their clients.

BBP training helps you learn how to:

- Recognize situations where exposure can occur.
- Prevent cross-contamination.
- Use gloves and other protective equipment appropriately.
- Handle needles and other sharps safely.
- Clean and disinfect work areas correctly.
- Respond if an occupational exposure occurs.

Depending on where you work, BBP training may be required by workplace-safety rules, state law, or your local health department.

Your certificate shows you completed training.
What you do with that knowledge helps you become a professional.

CHOOSE WELL · LEARN WELL

2. Which BBP Course Do You Need?

This is one of the most common questions new body artists ask—and there isn't one answer for everyone.

Requirements can vary depending on where you work, the type of body art you perform, workplace policies, and state or local licensing or permitting rules.

> **Don't guess.** Taking the wrong course can cost you time and money. Check the requirements where you will actually work.

BATG's **Which BBP Course Do I Need? →** guide can help you select the appropriate training. If you're still unsure, ask us.

3. What Should You Actually Learn?

Good BBP training should help you understand how exposure happens and how your decisions during a procedure can help prevent it.

Exposure & infection

Understand bloodborne pathogens, exposure routes, and the chain of infection.

Hand hygiene & gloves

Know when to clean your hands, change gloves, and avoid touching contaminated surfaces.

Sharps safety

Learn safer handling and disposal of needles and other sharps.

Cleaning & disinfection

Understand what each process does and when it is needed.

Cross-contamination

Recognize how contamination can move between surfaces, equipment, and hands.

Exposure response

Know the immediate steps to take and why prompt follow-up matters.

PUT YOUR TRAINING TO WORK

4. What Does Professional Safety Look Like?

Clients may not know every safety rule you follow. But they notice how you communicate, handle equipment, and maintain your workspace.

Communicate Clearly

Explain your safety practices in plain language and answer client questions respectfully.

Work Consistently

Develop safe routines and follow them every time to help prevent missed steps.

Stay Organized

Know where supplies, safety information, procedures, and training documentation are kept.

> **Safe practices shouldn’t interrupt your work. They should become part of how you work.**

5. Your Certificate Is the Beginning

After completing your training:

- Download and save your certificate; keep a backup copy.
- **Know when, or if, your BBP training needs to be renewed.**
- Check for any additional state or local requirements.
- Learn and follow your shop’s safety procedures.
- Ask questions when you don’t understand a procedure.
- Apply what you learn every day.

As you gain experience, many safe practices will become routine. Good habits help you work confidently and consistently.

PRINT AND KEEP

New Body Artist Safety Checklist

Before working with clients, make sure you understand how to:

- [ ] Prevent cross-contamination during a procedure.
- [ ] Use and change gloves appropriately.
- [ ] Prepare your work area before a procedure.
- [ ] Clean and disinfect surfaces appropriately.
- [ ] Respond appropriately to an occupational exposure.
- [ ] Explain basic safety practices to clients.
- [ ] Keep required training and safety records organized.
- [ ] **Know when, or if, your BBP training needs to be renewed.**
- [ ] Perform hand hygiene at appropriate times.
- [ ] Handle and dispose of sharps safely.
- [ ] Break down your work area without spreading contamination.
- [ ] Understand cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization.
- [ ] Locate and follow your shop's Exposure Control Plan (ECP) or its Exposure Control & Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP).
- [ ] Explain appropriate aftercare procedures.
- [ ] Find your saved BBP certificate.

> **Don’t know everything on this list yet?**
> That’s why you’re learning. Get good training, ask questions, and build safe habits from the beginning.

Start Your Career Like a Professional

Your artwork may attract a client. Your professionalism helps build their trust. BBP training is a starting point for the habits you’ll use throughout your career.

1. **Select Your Course**
   Choose training for where you work.
2. **Complete Your Course**
   Learn practical safety information for body art.
3. **Download Your Certificate**
   Use it for licensing, registration, or renewal.

Get Certified & Build Client Trust →

Not sure which course to choose? Visit BATG’s homepage and select “View the Course Guide.”

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