
DAY 0 — APPLICATION DAY

- Lips will appear 40-60% darker than the target colour
- Mild swelling is expected — most pronounced for 4-8 hours
- Apply recommended aftercare balm as instructed
- Avoid eating spicy, salty, or acidic food for 24 hours

DAYS 1-3 — OXIDATION PHASE

- Colour continues to appear dark and intense — this is not the final result
- Swelling subsides over 24-48 hours
- Lips feel tight and dry — maintain aftercare balm application
- Do NOT pick, peel, or scratch — let the skin heal undisturbed

DAYS 4-7 — PEELING PHASE

- Thin flaky layer begins to shed — colour looks patchy and uneven
- This is completely normal — pigment is settling beneath the peeling layer
- Continue gentle aftercare — no exfoliation, no lip scrubs
- Avoid swimming pools, saunas, and steam rooms

DAYS 7-21 — GHOST PHASE

- Colour may appear to have vanished — this is the "ghost phase"
- Pigment has been deposited in the dermis; fresh epidermis is opaque above it
- Do not panic — colour will re-emerge as the new skin matures and thins
- Continue avoiding sun exposure and harsh lip products

DAYS 21-42 — COLOUR EMERGENCE

- True colour gradually becomes visible through healed skin
- Colour intensity stabilises — this is approaching the final result
- Minor patchiness may be visible — this is normal and addressed at touch-up
- Book touch-up appointment no earlier than 6 weeks post-procedure

RED FLAGS — CONTACT YOUR PRACTITIONER

- Excessive swelling that worsens after Day 2 (rather than improving)
- Pus, yellow discharge, or hot painful inflammation (possible infection)
- Cluster of blisters appearing Days 3-7 (possible cold sore outbreak)
- Severe allergic reaction: widespread rash, breathing difficulty → seek A&E immediately