

NAIL SALONS



**Information for
Employers &
Employees**

Nail Salons

Nail salons are now a common feature on our high streets and their popularity is on the increase. Health and safety hazards from procedures on nails need to be controlled as they can affect both the nail technician and the client.

The Main Hazards Are:

- Inhalation, ingestion and skin contact with harmful chemicals and nail dust (artificial and natural).
- The Spread of Bacterial, Viral and Fungal Infections. This can include potential exposure to serious infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B & C and HIV.

How to Control Your Hazards...

Chemical Hazards

- Prohibit smoking, eating and drinking in the salon to reduce the risk of chemicals being inhaled or ingested and also to reduce the risk of infection.
- Get the chemical safety data sheets for the chemical products you can use from your supplier (they're free and you're entitled) and carry out a risk assessment.
A free information leaflet on what you need to know about carrying a risk assessment of the chemicals that you use can be downloaded free from the HSE Website at:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indgl36.pdf> or alternatively you can contact Environmental Health and Housing for a free copy.
- Make sure that you are using the safest products available and assess all new products before use. You must also ensure that you train staff in the

safe use of your chemicals.

- Use ventilated tables that exhaust to the outside. Ventilated tables should have close fitting filters, which must be replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ventilated tables reduce dust and chemicals in the air. Any ventilation equipment provided must be maintained in good working order to ensure that it remains effective. You should ensure that ventilation systems that exhaust to outside do not cause a nuisance to your neighbours.
- Make sure the general ventilation in your salon is adequate. General ventilation is best if you have through ventilation from the front to the back of the premises. This reduces the amount of chemicals in the air.
- Keep chemicals in closed and clearly marked or labelled containers and use dispenser bottles that have narrow necks or ideally have pressure sensitive bottle stops. This reduces the amount of chemicals in the air.
- Use metal rubbish bins with foot operated lids and empty them each day. Put chemically contaminated materials such as cotton wool pads in a sealed bag before disposal in the bin. This reduces the amount of chemicals in the air.
- Ensure that the technician and client wash and dry their hands before and after cosmetic treatment. This reduces the risk of ingesting harmful chemicals and reduces the risk of infection.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for using protective clothing such as paper masks, vinyl gloves etc. Wearing gloves is not a replacement for washing hands.

Infection

- Treat the natural nail, cuticle and skin around the nail with respect – any damage could lead to infection.
- Any equipment that has direct contact with the skin or natural nail such as files, boards etc. should ideally be either, specific to the client or single use and disposable. Ensure all other equipment is properly cleaned between clients – this includes:-
 1. Cleaning the treatment table – following the manufacturers guidance for cleaning, therefore reducing the risk of infection.
 2. Thoroughly clean brushes, sponges, towels etc between use.
- Avoid using electric nail drills – they have been linked with increased risk of infection and damage to clients' natural nails. If you use drills, parts that come into direct contact with the natural nail, cuticle or skin must be either single use and disposable or sterilised between clients. If disposable tips are used the tip holder must be cleaned between clients – follow the manufacturers guidance for cleaning. This will reduce the risk of infection.
- Re-usable equipment, such as manicure and pedicure implements, must be effectively sterilised between every client.

The use of 'Barbacide' or similar product is **NOT** adequate to sterilise re-useable manicure and pedicure implements such as Cuticle Clippers, as they are disinfectants only. A disinfectant will reduce the number of some microbes, while sterilisation is the complete destruction of all microbes and can only be guaranteed by heating in an autoclave. Please note that UV Sterilisers **DO NOT** Sterilise. Ultra Violet light has disinfecting

Additional Recommendations

Record a relevant history from the client. The following list (which is not exhaustive and will depend upon the chemicals/procedures being used) may indicate that a cosmetic procedure should not be carried out:

- A history of skin conditions such as dermatitis, eczema or sensitive skin.
- A history of allergies
- Poor skin or nail condition.
- Is the client undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment?
- Has the client got an existing medical condition e.g. infection, blood disease, heart disease, haemophilia:
- Does the client have a history of skin cancer or is the client on medication that makes the skin photosensitive? (important if the salon has ultra-violet curing equipment).
- Is the client pregnant?

For any of the above, your client may need to seek medical advice **before** cosmetic work is carried out.

You should also provide clients with a written aftercare advice leaflet.

A good standard of training is vital. The Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) (www.habia.org, Tel: 01302 380000) promotes nationally recognised standards. Product placement or basic trade courses are often inadequate.

This is not an exclusive list of the hazards that may be found in your premises and there may be other issues you need to consider to ensure that you comply with the relevant Health and Safety Law. If you would like more information please contact Environmental Health & Housing.



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