



Non-higher Risk Personal Appearance Services Beauty Therapy Information Sheet

This fact sheet provides information for operators about the health and hygiene requirements of the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003 and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Beauty therapy means a procedure, other than hairdressing, intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance including the following:

- Facial or body treatments
- Application of cosmetics
- Manicure or pedicure
- Application of, or mending, artificial nails
- Epilation including by electrolysis or hot or cold wax

Under the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*, beauty therapy is classified as a non-higher risk personal appearance service. This means that beauty therapists are not required to be licensed with Council; however you still have an obligation to notify local government if you start a new business and Council is obligated under the Act to inspect your business annually and charge a fee. Although you are not required to be licensed to operate, you must still take all reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of infection to clients as a result of procedures carried out by your business.

2. **PREMISES**

All beauty therapists' premises should be fitted out with the following:

- Adequate hand washing facilities
- Adequate equipment washing facilities
- Floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces should be finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning
- Adequate vermin-proof cupboards for clean linen and clothing
- Adequate waste receptacles

3. **PERSONAL HYGIENE**

- Hand washing is generally considered to be the most important measure in preventing the spread of infection. Hand washing removes significant numbers of infectious agents when it is done properly.

Hairdressers should wash their hands:

- Before and after treating a client
- After smoking, eating or going to the toilet
- After cleaning contaminated equipment





4. EQUIPMENT

- Clean, disinfect or sterilise instruments and materials, depending on the instrument and its use according to Guidelines 1.6 and 5 of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services
- Handle, store and use all materials to a client in a way that minimises contamination
- Ensure that equipment is kept clean at all times

5. PROCEDURES

Beauty and nail treatments

- Apply materials (e.g. cosmetics, creams, powders or nail polish) to client with clean, single use equipment OR with equipment that has been cleaned as per Guideline 1.6.1
- Do not apply cosmetic testers (e.g. lipsticks) directly to face or mouth, to avoid potential infections such as cold sores
- To avoid cross contamination, dispense sufficient material (e.g. cream) from the original container into another clean container (to be used for one client only) or onto a single-use applicator
- Place single-use disposable instruments (e.g. applicators) in a waste container after use and do not re-use on another client
- Do not apply materials to a client if it has been applied to another person, with the exception of wax (if it has been used and cleaned as per instructions below)
- Clean and sterilise instruments that do not normally penetrate the skin but which may become contaminated with blood and body substances (e.g. manicure instruments) before using them on another client

Depilatory waxing (including paraffin treatment)

- Heat and strain re-usable wax to remove hair and reheat it to at least 130°C for 15 minutes before it is used on another client. Use a thermometer to check the temperature of the wax
- Place the strained material (hair and other matter) in the waste container and clean the strainer after each use
- Clean wax pots and tongs daily to remove the build up of hair and other matter
- Clean spatulas before re-using on another person, or use disposable spatulas (wax may become contaminated by dipping a spatula into the wax pot, transferring wax to the area of the skin from where the hair is to be removed and then dipping the spatula into the wax pot)

Electrolysis

- Before starting the procedure, the client's skin should be cleaned as per Guideline 4.1
- Ensure that all needles used in electrolysis are sterile, single-use disposable needles are recommended
- If non-disposable needles are used, sterilise them before re-use as per Guideline 5
- If a single sterile needle is used to remove as many hairs as necessary from a client on a single occasion, dispose of the needle in a sharps container and do not re-use on another client
- Clean needle holders with warm water and detergent and dry them

6. POST-TREATMENT

Ensure that you wash your hands after providing a service to each client and ensure that all equipment is cleaned and sterilised according to the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004.

