

This fact sheet is designed as a guidance tool only to provide beauty therapists with relevant health information regarding the hygienic provision of beauty treatments. For more detailed information, see *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 can be defined as a procedure, other than hairdressing, intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance, including:

- facial or body treatments
- application of cosmetics
- manicure or pedicure
- application, or mending, of artificial nails
- epilation including by electrolysis, or by hot or cold wax

The *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003* categorises beauty therapy as a non-higher risk personal appearance service and therefore does not generally require a licence from Council. Some Councils may require licensing of non-higher risk services under a Local Law. Even though you may provide a service that is not licensed (eg a non-higher risk activity), you must still take all reasonable precautions and care to minimise risk of infection to clients.

If your business is conducting any other activities which are not defined above, such as body piercing, please contact Council for details on higher risk personal appearance services.

## 2. Premises

Structural items required for all beauty therapists include:

- suitable hand washing facilities
- suitable equipment washing facilities
- floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces 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 the most important measure in preventing the spread of infection. It removes microbial contamination from contact with clients and/or the environment. You must wash your hands:

- before treating a client
- after treating a client
- after smoking or eating
- after going to the toilet
- after cleaning contaminated equipment

Operators must not smoke while attending to a client.

For more information, contact your local Council

## 4. Equipment

All equipment must be kept clean at all times. It is important that you refer to the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004, Guideline 1.6 for a complete guide to correct sterilisation procedures.

## 5. Procedures

### General

- Apply materials to a client by either using single-use equipment or equipment that has been effectively cleaned, disinfected or sterilised.
- Do not apply materials to a client if it has been applied to another person. (Wax is an exception.)
- Avoid cross-contamination by using a single-use applicator or dispensing sufficient material from original container into another clean container (to be used only on one client).
- Do not apply cosmetic testers directly to the face or mouth.
- Before using on another client, clean and sterilise instruments (eg razors, manicure instruments) that do not normally penetrate the skin but which may have been contaminated with blood and body substances.

### Waxing

- Clean spatulas before re-using on another person or use disposable spatulas. (Wax can become contaminated by dipping the spatula into the wax pot after it has just been used on a client.)
- Single use wax is preferable, however, the following steps are required if you choose to re-use wax:
  - heat and strain re-useable wax to remove hair
  - reheat it to at least 130°C for 15 minutes before it is used on another client (use a thermometer)
  - leave the strained material in the waste container
  - clean the strainer after each use
  - clean wax pots and tongs daily to remove build up of hair etc.

### Electrolysis

Before carrying out electrolysis on a client, their skin must be adequately prepared to protect them from infection. This can be done by swabbing with an antiseptic solution - refer to fact sheet, "Skin penetration procedures".

- Ensure all needles used in electrolysis are sterile.
- Whenever possible, use single-use disposable needles.
- If non-disposable needles are to be re-used, sterilise them in accordance with the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004 before using on another client.
- If a single sterile needle is used extensively on a client on a single occasion, this needle must be disposed of in the sharps container and not re-used.
- Clean needle holders with warm water and detergent, then allow to dry.

## 6. Post-treatment

After each client:

- sterilise re-usable equipment in accordance with the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004
- wash your hands.