

Hair Dressers Fact Sheet

Legislation – Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008

- The premises must be kept clean.
- Any article that has penetrated the skin or is contaminated with blood or body fluids/substances must be either disposed of immediately after use or cleaned and sterilised before being used on another person.
- Any other used article must be cleaned before being used on another person.
- Operators must keep themselves and their clothing clean, and have no exposed cuts, abrasions or wounds.

Hand washing facilities

The proprietor or occupier of the premises must ensure that they have adequate hand washing facilities available (where only hair dressing takes place, a hair wash basin or basins are considered to be sufficient). It must be a basin with hot and cold running water supplied through a single outlet. Liquid soap and paper towel must be easily accessible for use by staff at all times. It is expected that before carrying out any procedure, each staff member is in a clean condition, has clean hands and has no exposed cuts, abrasions or wounds.

Equipment sinks

Separate sinks with hot and cold running water supplied through a single outlet (hot water not less than 70°C) should be located in the cleaning area for instrument and equipment washing.

Cleanliness of equipment and articles

There are provisions in regard to the cleanliness of equipment and articles used in the process of hairdressing. The proprietor or occupier must ensure that:

- any article is clean before it is used on a person
- any article intended to be used for penetrating the skin is sterile at the time of use
- an article which has penetrated the skin of a person, or is contaminated with blood is: Immediately destroyed or disposed of; or sterilized in accordance with the provisions outlined in the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations*.

Sterile equipment

It is generally not intended for equipment used in hairdressing to penetrate the skin and therefore there is not a specific requirement in the regulations for equipment to be sterile. However, the *Health Guidelines for Personal Care and Body Art Industries* notes that the use of some equipment may become contaminated with blood or body fluids during a procedure and recommend that some instruments be single use, or otherwise sterilised after use.

Accidents

Common items such as razors, scissors, combs, clippers and hairpins can accidentally penetrate the skin. Blood and body fluids do not have to be visible on instruments, or surfaces. These items could potentially be the cause of diseases or pass on other health risks such as: Blood born disease (HIV), Hep B&C or head lice's so it is imperative that precautions are taken.



Records

It is important to keep accurate records of every procedure carried out on each client. Premises should also record every incident relevant to occupational health regulations.

Accurate and detailed records are valuable if there is any infection or possibility of a blood-borne virus transmission. In the case of a blood-borne virus, for example, these records can be cross-checked for the probability for or against a reported infection resulting from a specific procedure or incident (see part E, appendix 3 for examples of records in the

Health Guidelines for Personal Care and Body Art Industry Guidelines).

The proprietor or operators must also ensure that they comply with the relevant legislation regarding the collection, storage, use and disclosure of personal and/or health information.

Animals

Animals, other than guide dogs for the hearing - or sight-impaired client, should not be permitted in procedure areas. Having animals in premises in general should be discouraged.



Cleaning requirements for hairdressing equipment

| Equipment | Risk | Reason | When | How |
|------------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Single use razors | High | Potential for skin infections or blood borne virus transmission | After each client | Dispose into a sharps container |
| Safety razors | High | Potential for skin infections or blood borne virus transmission | After each client | Dispose of blade into sharps container. Wash handle in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth. If contaminated sterilise or dispose of into a sharps container. |
| Electric razors | High | Potential for skin infections or blood borne virus transmission | Do not use | Note: Electric razors cannot withstand immersion or steralisation. |
| Shaving brushes | Intermediate | Potential for infections if previous client has facial skin lesions or infection | After each client | Rinse free hair and shaving cream. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly. |
| Scissors and clippers | Low risk | Potential for infection or infestation | After each client | Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with a lint fee cloth |
| Hair cutting razors | Low risk | Potential for infection or infestation | After each client | Sterile or dispose of if blood is drawn. Dispose of blades into sharps container |



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| <p>Combs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair brushes • Hairnets • Neck brushes • Ear caps • Hair pins/clips | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Potential for infection or infestation</p> | <p>After each client and when dropped on the floor</p> | <p>Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair.</p> <p>Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.</p> <p>Dry with a lint free cloth</p> |
| <p>Rollers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular • Hot • Tongs • Crimps | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Potential for infection or infestation</p> | <p>After each client and when dropped on the floor</p> | <p>Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair.</p> <p>Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.</p> <p>Dry with a lint free cloth</p> |
| <p>Bottles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo • Conditioner | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Potential for contamination</p> | <p>When empty</p> | <p>Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.</p> <p>Dry thoroughly with a lint free cloth</p> |
| <p>Shaving bowls</p> | | | | |
| <p>Dye mixing bowls</p> | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Potential for contamination</p> | <p>When empty</p> | <p>Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.</p> <p>Dry with a lint free cloth</p> |
| <p>Capes/wraps</p> | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Potential for infections if previous client has facial skin lesions or infection</p> | <p>After each client unless a clean towel or paper tape is used on neck</p> | <p>Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.</p> <p>Dry according to type of material</p> |
| <p>Equipment trolley</p> | <p>Low risk</p> | <p>Prevention of dust and hairs from accumulating or contaminating equipment</p> | <p>weekly</p> | <p>Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair.</p> <p>Wash in warm water and detergent.</p> <p>Dry thoroughly with a lint free cloth</p> |



Please refer to the Health Guidelines for Personal Care and Body Art Industry for further information.

[http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/1F529BC2FCF8D74CCA2578CD000DA163/\\$FILE/health_guidelines.pdf](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/1F529BC2FCF8D74CCA2578CD000DA163/$FILE/health_guidelines.pdf)