

Hairdressing, Beauty & Skin Penetration: Hygiene Practices & Requirements

Good hygiene will reduce the risk of infections for both the client and operator.

Client Hygiene

Due to the risk of contaminating the work environment and infecting other clients and staff, people suffering from a range of infections or infestations should be excluded from any work area where services are carried out. Such conditions include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head lice • Scabies • Chicken pox • Ringworm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinea • Bad skin cuts/abrasions • Skin infections • Skin rashes |
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Cleanliness

The premises should be kept clean and in good repair and all surfaces cleaned thoroughly and on a regular basis.

Operator Hygiene

Where an operator has broken skin or infections on exposed parts of their body, they should be protected or covered with a waterproof dressing. Hands should be washed between clients, after eating, smoking and going to the toilet. Single use gloves should be used when performing procedures.

Handwashing

Washing hands significantly reduces the numbers of infectious agents. It is considered the most important measure to reduce the likelihood of infection. Hands should be washed:

- Before and after working with a client
- After visiting the bathroom
- After smoking
- After meal breaks
- After blowing your nose or touching any part of your body
- After handling soiled equipment including jewellery, towels and cloths
- Before putting on and after removing gloves
- After contact with blood or bodily substances
- Whenever hands are visibly soiled

- any other time you believe infection risks are apparent



Operators should use the designated hand wash basin, liquid soap and single use paper towel to wash their hands.

Operator Clothing

Operators must wear a gown or apron. Footwear should be enclosed and puncture resistant to prevent accidental injury with sharps. Gloves should be worn when performing skin penetration procedures. There is an exemption for wearing gloves when applying wax unless there is a risk of being exposed to human bodily substances during the procedure.

Smoking, Eating, Drinking

Operators should not smoke, eat or drink when attending to clients or cleaning and disinfecting instruments since these activities promote the transfer of infectious agents in the environment. These practices should be prohibited and kept separate.

Linen

Soiled linen and uniforms should be effectively cleaned after each use and then stored in a clean and dry environment free of dust, insects and vermin. Domestic washing machines are adequate for such purposes.

Animals

Animals should be restricted from the work area where services are carried out as they may be a source of potential infection. However, special circumstances such as persons that require a Guide Dog may be considered appropriate.

More information

Visit NSW Health website for more information: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/skinpenetration>. Alternatively, contact Council and ask to speak to the Environmental Health Officer.