Safety in a Beauty Salon

Safe salons.

Cosmetology boards are responsible for implementing safety guidelines. It's up to the individual salons to adhere to regulations and ensure a safe environment for their clients.

Health Safety

1. Scalp issues.

According to Kim Gordon, a learning leader at the Esani Institute Paul Mitchell Atlanta Cosmetology School, her students are trained to recognize and analyze potential problems. Lice and open sores on the scalp are health issues that could potentially jeopardize all clients' safety.
Tool Safety

Scaly feet.

Within recent years, the Georgia Board of Cosmetology has taken steps to reduce the chances of injury or infections by banning nippers and credo blades. Credo blades scale off dry skin during pedicures, while nippers cut extra skin around the cuticle.

Sanitization

3.
Disinfect.

Gordon says after a single use, hair stylists and beauticians must put all their used implements into a labeled container for dirty implements. A sanitizing process with an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant must place at the end of each day.

**Speculation**

Overexposed.

Concerns over exposure to ammonia from hair dyes and exposure to electric magnetic fields (EMF) -- from too many blow-dryers running at the same time -- have not been substantiated by OSHA.
Complaints

Gordon says if you have any safety concerns about your neighborhood salon, a complain must be filed in writing to your State Cosmetology Board.

Safety Rules in the Salon

According to the book "Professional Beauty Therapy," salons are legally obligated to provide a safe and hygienic working environment for their customers and staff. Paying special attention to safety and health ensures the welfare of customers. Salon clients must be served in sanitary conditions.

Licensing

1. In the United States, salons must receive a license from their states before they can begin operating. This ensures that they are compliant with certain safety regulations.
**Sanitation**

2. One of the main concerns for many salons is sanitation. Proper sanitation keeps customers and staff safe and avoids health problems and infections. Salons must properly clean and disinfect their equipment to practice good sanitation.

**Toxins**

3. In nail salons, improper ventilation can pose a health risk to clients and workers by increasing the levels of toxicity in the air. Salons must ensure that their ventilation system provides fresh air intake and exhaustion of stale air. This will reduce the clients' and staff's exposure to airborne bacteria, particles, and toxic vapors.

**Contagious Illness**

4. In many states, individuals who have a contagious or infectious disease are not allowed to work as a nail technician or cosmetologist. Individuals who are contagious have the capacity to infect salon clients, which is illegal.

**Procedures**

5. Many states have banned the use of razors in pedicures. Scraping the customer's feet with a razor poses a danger to health because it has the potential to remove healthy skin and raises the risk of infections and rashes. Salon staff must also sanitize all sinks, bowls, and boards for each new customer.
Considerations

6. According to "Newsweek," there are certain things that an individual can do to ensure that they are going to safe salon. They should first make sure the salon is licensed and that their technician is certified. Patrons should also consider taking their own tools when they go in for a pedicure or manicure.

HAIRDRESSING/BEAUTY SALONS

Irritant dermatitis occurs when a substance physically damages the skin. Shampooing can set this off because frequent contact removes the protective oils, thus drying the skin. Fortunately, the effects can be reversible by taking suitable precautions, such as the wearing of gloves.

Allergic contact dermatitis is more serious and is irreversible. It occurs when a person has been exposed to a sensitizing agent, possibly over a long period of time before any reaction is noticed. Sensitising agents include some of the chemicals used in hair preparations. Once sensitised, the allergic reaction occurs extremely quickly when exposed to the substance subsequently. To avoid contact with sensitising agents it is therefore again important to use gloves and to follow product instructions carefully.
SKIN PIERCING

Beauty salons may offer electrolysis or ear piercing, both of which require registration with the local authority under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and, if Appropriate, compliance with byelaws made under the Act. Health and safety considerations are dealt with in more depth in the Skin Piercing element of this manual. In summary, the main Requirements are to use suitable equipment, to follow Recommended methods, to have good standards of personal and Environmental hygiene, to have well-trained operators and to keep records of all skin piercing treatments.

WAXING

Hot and warm wax may be used for depilation but it should never be filtered and reused. A disposable spatula should be used to apply the wax to the skin and then discarded. Spatulas should not be put back in the pot of wax once they have been in contact with the skin. There are propriety systems for waxing that remove the risk of contamination of the wax. Good personal hygiene should be observed at all times.

HAIRDRESSING

Solid open razors should not be used, except those with disposable blades. Electric razors should be avoided unless adequate cleansing and sterilisation can be ensured. Clippers, when used, should be properly aligned with the bottom blade in front of the top blade by approx 1/16". Equipment should be regularly cleansed and sterilised as necessary, e.g. if a client’s skin has been cut.
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Advice on the safety of electrical equipment is contained elsewhere in this manual. The range, number and 'portability' of electrical equipment used in salons, together with their proximity to water, make for potentially hazardous situations.

In summary, appropriate precautions would include establishing an electrical equipment register and test/checking system, visual checks by staff, protective devices (including a residual current device fitted to circuits to which portable hand tools are connected) and earth bonding of pipework.

ULTRA VIOLET TANNING EQUIPMENT

In summary, precautions would include the safe construction, installation and maintenance of the equipment, ensuring safe working practices so as to limit client exposure and suitable training of staff. Further details can be found in the Radiation element of this manual.

SLIP AND TRIP HAZARDS

These may arise from trailing cables, loose hair or liquid spillage. They require either prevention in the first place (trailing cables) or prompt attention should they arise during working.

SPACE HEATING

Any space heaters used should be suitably located and guarded - bear in mind children and clients’ clothing
Bacteria control

things have changed and continue to change; as communicable diseases change and mutate, as new chemical agents are created and tested, sanitation standards also must evolve. But fear not... it's all good.

You must be doing something right when you are rating at a 100% for fifteen years. Each state has their own sanitation rules and regulations but some things are universal. Allow me to reiterate your good salon sanitation habits.
Here are some pointers concerning contagious disease.

Always do:

* remember that a communicable disease is transmitted from one person to another.

* Pus is a sign of infection.

* Aids is caused by the HIV virus and can be transmitted by sharp implements.

* Bacteria and viruses can enter the body through broken skin.

If you or any of your associates come across a client that may have a contagious disease, do not perform any service and do not try to medicate or diagnose, always refer your client to a physician.

Here are some sanitation pointers:

* Removing pathogens and other substances from tools or surfaces is called decontamination.

* All disinfectants must be approved by each individual state and the EPA.

* Every product used in the salon should have a MSDA (material safety data sheet).

* A disinfectant that is formulated for hospitals and normally used in salons must be
pseudomonacidal, bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal.

*Clean all implements before soaking in any disinfectant.

*Mix disinfectants with water and change them once a day.

*Always store clean and disinfected implements in a clean and covered container.

*Wash your linens and drapes in bleach and store them in a dry, clean and covered place.

*Disinfect your tools and implements after each client.
How to Clean Pedicure Stations

By MiMi Abney, eHow Contributing Writer

If not properly sanitized, the pedicure station in a salon is a haven for nasty bacteria. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a dirty pedicure station can affect all salon patrons negatively by spreading Mycobacterium fortuitum through a foot bath. To prepare the safest pedicure possible for your clients—-and prevent microorganisms from entering the skin—-a manicurist must clean and disinfect her pedicure station thoroughly after each customer. Without a careful cleansing and daily disinfection procedure, pedicure basins become the breeding grounds for the spread of athlete's foot, nail fungus and bacterial infections.

Things You’ll Need:

- EPA-registered liquid disinfectant
- Chelating agent
- Paper towels
- Small disinfected scrub brush
- Barbicide

1. Step 1
Drain the water from the foot tub after each pedicure service. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the CDC, "a foot spa should be disinfected between each customer, and nightly."

2. Step 2

Scrub the pedicure tub completely. Combine liquid soap and warm water in the foot basin. Allow the sudsy water to remain in the tub for five to seven minutes. Using a brush disinfected with barbicide, scrub the inside of the basin vigorously to remove any remaining dirt or nail clippings.

3. Step 3

Drain the water from the tub. Rinse several times with water to remove any soap residue. Wipe the tub clean with a paper towel.

4. Step 4

Begin sterilization. Combine the EPA-registered liquid disinfectant with warm water in the foot basin. Allow the mixture to soak for 10 minutes. Drain the tub completely. Rinse the tub several times with warm water. Use a clean paper towel to dry the pedicure station.

5. Step 5

At the end of each day, clean and sterilize all removable parts of the pedicure station. Remove the screen at the back of the whirlpool basin or air jet foot bath. Clean the screen and the removable
parts using a disinfected brush and warm, soapy water. Dry and replace the cleaned parts and screen.

6. Step 6

Combine a chelating agent with warm water in the foot basin for five to 10 minutes. Turn on the tub. Allow the solution to circulate through the jets to clean the pedicure station. Repeat Step 4 to sterilize the tub using the EPA-registered disinfectant.
Use of Antiseptics & Disinfectants

By Veronica Romualdez, eHow Contributing Writer

Cleaning with antiseptics and disinfectants

Disinfectants and antiseptics are germicidal solutions, also known as sanitizers and antimicrobials, and are used to quickly kill bacteria on contact. The difference between the two is that disinfectants are used to kill bacteria on objects and surfaces while antiseptics are used to kill bacteria on skin or living tissue. Disinfectants and antiseptics are used everywhere from hospitals to homes to destroy harmful microorganisms.

Different Types of Disinfectants

1. Different types of disinfectants include alcohols, aldehydes, bleaches, hydrogen peroxide, iodine and potassium permanganate solution. Phenol compounds, which are disinfectants used in hand-washes and soaps, are also used for their anti-bacterial properties.
Use of Disinfectants

2. Disinfectants are used in many different places such as in hospitals, clinics, homes, schools and offices. They are used to clean surfaces such as toilets, sinks, floors, drains, door knobs, counters and garbage cans. Disinfectants aid in maintaining a clean environment to help prevent the spread of harmful bacteria that may cause infections.

Different Types of Antiseptics

3. Different types of antiseptics include alcohol, boric acid, hydrogen peroxide, iodine, carbolic acid, chlorohexadine, sodium chloride, sodium hypochlorite and calcium hypochlorite. Additionally, phenol compounds are also used as antiseptics such as in mouthwashes.

Use of Antiseptics

4. Antiseptics are applied to the skin either to sterilize a cut or used for hand-washing such as before a surgical procedure or contact with those who are at a high risk of infection such as newborn babies. Antiseptics destroy and inhibit the growth of microorganisms on the skin or mucous membranes. They are not as strong as disinfectants, so they shouldn't be used to clean objects and surfaces.

Regulatory Agencies

5. The use of disinfectants is regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticides. They require manufacturers to test the product's stability, toxicity to humans and microbial activity before being distributed and sold. Germicides that are used in the medical
environment are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Specific information about microbial activity is submitted by the manufacturers before being distributed and sold. The FDA also regulates the use of antimicrobial soaps, scrubs and wound protectors.

**Germicidal Effectiveness**

6. The effectiveness of germicides is based on a number of factors. Such factors include the shape of the object being cleaned, its texture and whether it is flat or cracked. The amount of microbes and the resistance of these microbes to the germicide also play a part in its effectiveness. The amount of blood, mucus or tissue on the skin affects the effectiveness of antiseptics, as do the chemical composition, time of exposure and temperature of the germicide. It is for this reason that germicidal solutions should be used for its specific purpose and used properly based on the manufacturer's instructions.

**Disinfectants (definitions and forms)**

Disinfectants are substances that play a big role in maintaining safe environments, foods, chemicals and waters. The antisepsis strength of disinfectants varies and is determined by health and government organizations using standardized tests.

There several health benefits of disinfectant, such as prevention of surgical equipment contamination, elimination of crop pests and maintenance of water potability. However, using disinfectants beyond the established safety level may also bring unwanted effects because disinfectants are chemical substances that destroy cellular organisms.
**Definition**

1. A disinfectant or antiseptic is a chemical substance that kills or prevents growth of microorganisms such as disease-causing bacteria.

According to "Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities" by Rutala and Webber, "Disinfection is a process that eliminates many microorganisms with the exception of bacterial spores." In other words, disinfectants don't sterilize or completely eliminate bacteria at once.

**History**

2. The first known application of disinfectant [dates](#) back to 1865 when British surgeon Joseph Lister used carbolic acid to disinfect wounds, such as open wounds from accidents or during surgical operations. Thereafter, experts have invented numerous disinfectants such as antibacterial mouth wash, Listerine, which was named after Dr. Lister.

**Identification**

3. The antisepsis factor of a disinfectant may be measured in terms of disinfectant strength. This factor is different in every disinfectant, for instance, the disinfectant strength of an alcohol differs from that of a hand sanitizer. The difference between disinfectant strengths is due to the varying conditions of the standard tests used in evaluating the disinfectant. For instance, the targeted bacteria in a certain standard test is more difficult to kill than other test targets.
**Benefits**

4. Disinfectants, if used properly and in the right amounts, offer a wide array of health benefits. The common benefits include elimination of bacteria from wounds, prevention of infectious diseases, prevention of food contamination, elimination of pests in crops, ensuring the potability of water and maintaining safe pool water.