

Nail Salon Guide for Operators and Staff

Manicures and pedicures can lead to bacterial, fungal, or viral infections such as Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, or Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) if instruments and surfaces are not properly cleaned and disinfected between clients.

Operators and staff should review the Personal Service Guidelines to learn more about infection prevention and control practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infections.

Purpose

This guide outlines infection prevention and control requirements for nail salons, based on the *Personal Service Regulations* and is intended as a resource for salon operators and staff to achieve compliance with the Regulations and Guidelines.

Important Rules for All Instruments

- Clean first:** Always remove visible dirt and soil with detergent and water before disinfecting. If cleaning cannot be completed immediately, instruments must be soaked or kept moist until cleaning can be completed.
- Disinfectants:** Must have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) or Medical Device License (MDL); follow the label for mixing, contact time, and reuse period. Instruments must be fully immersed in the solution to ensure disinfection of all surfaces. Check high-level disinfectant concentration daily with a test strip and label containers with the mix date.
- Storage:** Dry instruments completely and store them in covered, washable containers. **UV cabinets do not effectively disinfect and are permitted for storage only.**
- Hand Hygiene:** Wash before/after clients, when changing gloves, and before and after cleaning and disinfecting instruments. Gloves are required when service includes contact with broken skin; discard after each use.
- Sharps:** Needles/blades discarded into puncture-resistant containers immediately.



*UV light cabinet



*Sharps container

Nail Brushes

Classification: Non-critical

Required: Clean, then low-level disinfectant (DIN required)

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Have multiple sets at each station to allow drying time



Nail Drills and Bits

Classification: Non-critical

Required: Clean, then intermediate-level disinfectant (DIN required)

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Have multiple sets of bits; sanding bands are single-use, disposable only



Clippers, Nippers, Pushers, Metal/Diamond Nail Files

Classification: Non-critical

Required: Clean, then intermediate-level disinfectant (DIN required)

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Have enough sets for a full day; store in covered containers



Nail Files (Cardboard/Foam) & Buffer Blocks

Classification: Single use (porous, uncleanable)

Required: Discard after one client

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Cut large blocks or files to reduce waste



Workstations, UV/LED Curing Lamps and Client Chairs

Classification: Non-critical

Required: Clean, then low-level disinfectant (pre-moistened wipes permitted)

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Launder towels used as a barrier between clients



Foot Files (sticker on metal handle), Foam Sandals, Toe Separators, Pumice Stones

Classification: Single use (porous, uncleanable)

Required: Discard after one client

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Have a large supply in storage



Callus Removers and Metal Foot Files

Classification: Semi-critical, due to potential to create micro cuts in the skin

Required: Clean, then high-level disinfect (MDL required), blades (credo) discarded after one client in sharps disposal container

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: Verify full cleaning and ensure debris removal



Pedicure Bowls and Foot Baths

Classification: Non-critical (exteriors); intermediate level if contacting feet

Required:

Non-Recirculating Basins: Clean then low-level disinfectant (if liner used) or clean then intermediate-level disinfectant (if no liner used)

Recirculating foot thrones are not recommended. If used, they must be cleaned and disinfected between each client:

- Fill with detergent and run for 5 minutes through the piping.
- Drain, rinse with clean water.
- Fill with intermediate level disinfectant to above the jets, run for 10 minutes. Drain.
- At the end of the day – remove, dismantle, clean and disinfect filters or screens using intermediate-level disinfectant.

Frequency: Between each client

Tip: If you have recirculating foot thrones, place a stainless-steel basin in the tub to soak feet. Clean and disinfect according to non-recirculating basin requirements, as above.



Refer to "Selecting the Right Disinfectant for your Personal Service Establishment" for more information on instrument classification and disinfection level requirements.

For more information

Contact Environmental Health – 902-368-4970 or envhealth@ihis.org

